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BIRTHS.

On the 17th December, at 42, Anson Road, Penang, the wife of H. G. W. COUNTER, of a son.

MARRIAGES.

On the 26th December, at S. Andrew's Cathedral, Singapore, by the Venerable Archdeacon Dunkerley, ANWYL, son of the late Rev. JOHN WYNNE RICHARDS, of Beaumaris, Anglesea, to JEANNIE, daughter of the late JAMES LAWSON, of Wolverhampton.

On the 5th January, at S. John's Cathedral, Hongkong, HERBERT G. CHARLES, Chinese Customs Service, to AMY, daughter of EDWARD DAVIES, Birkenhead, England.

EPITOME OF THE WEEK.

The Foreign Office has appointed a commercial agent to Vladivostock.

The British Railway Administration has finally closed its connection with North China.

A petition in favour of a fixed dollar has been signed by nearly the whole of the leading non-European firms in Penang.

It is announced in St. Petersburg that the restoration of the Imperial palaces at Mukden to China began on the 3rd instant.

The Empress Dowager has been so stirred by reading about female education that she is about to institute schools for Manchu women.

From the China Coast Meteorological Register issued from the Observatory on the 6th inst. it appears that Weihaiwei reported a slight shock of earthquake at 6 o'clock that morning.

The *Times* correspondent at Peking, in a retrospect last week on political affairs in China, trenchantly criticises Germany's diplomatic duplicity with reference to the Yangtsze question.

The *Sin Wen Pao* says that the Russians are much upset by the British action in connection with the Shantung railway, and have appealed to H. H. Hu Yun-mei, who is consequently much disturbed.

The British Consul at Hankow has notified the foreign missionaries in the Hsianfu region to be prepared to leave their stations if necessary and has recommended them to send their women and children to safety.

The Imperial University at Peking was opened on the 12th on the most conservative lines, with elaborate kowtows to the tablet of Confucius. A special address was to be given to pacify the more advanced students.

Sir Robert Hart has consented that Russia shall establish a Customs station at Dalny, if the Tsingtao precedent is followed; but he absolutely opposes admitting Russian control. Russia insists, under the Chinese Eastern Railway agreement. It is now feared that the matter becomes serious, as forming a pretext for other Powers following Russia's precedent.

The *Novoe Vremya* publishes an article from a correspondent in Manchuria, which states that, instead of leaving, it seems as if the Russians had just begun to settle in Manchuria in earnest. No Russian in the province doubts that there is a brilliant future for Russians there. The correspondent adds that the Russians are about to construct a branch railway to Kirin.

Mr. H. M. Bovis, British Delegate, Shanghai, notifies that in instalment of 20 per cent. of the certificate amount of the Chinese Indemnity of 1901 is payable on 1st January. "B" of certificates is used in payment of British private claims under the provisions of the Notification of the 12th June last. Coupons are payable at the London office of the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank and negotiable at branches and agencies, Hongkong and China.

A telegram to the *N.-C. Daily News* dated Tokyo, 30th December, says:—It is officially announced that the general elections will take place on the 1st of March next, and the Diet will probably meet early in May. The party politicians assert the possibility of reducing the budgetary expenditure by eighteen million yen, thereby providing ample funds for naval expansion, without suspending the proposed State enterprises, or having recourse to the land tax.

The *Siberskaya Shien*, published at Tomsk says that the Russian Minister of Finance during his recent visit was disagreeably surprised at the extremely slow progress that has been made with the work of railway construction generally in Manchuria. The section of line between Tashchiao and Dalny was the only section that made anything like a favourable impression upon M. Witte. With the defective arrangements and accommodation of the various railway stations, especially in the case of the larger stations, M. Witte was greatly dissatisfied.

A telegram to the *Mainichi*, dated Peking, December 25th, says:—Count Lamsdorff, Russian Foreign Secretary, has recommended the Chinese Minister in St. Petersburg to draw his Government's attention to the advisability of China's adopting a gold standard. The Minister further stated that Russia is prepared to assist China with the necessary capital by issuing gold bonds. He explained to the Chinese representative that no other alternative than this is possible if China is to be delivered from the financial difficulties under which she is suffering.

The returns of the cholera epidemic in the Philippine Islands last year shows an appalling death-roll. In all, the number of cases reported was 120,974, of which 78,816 proved fatal; the mortality rate being 63 per cent. Of this number 4,545 cases existed in Manila, with 3,418 deaths. The Filipinos suffered most heavily with 3,939 cases and 3,106 deaths; Chinese 339 cases and 179 deaths; Americans, 150 cases and 76 deaths; Europeans, 61 cases and 38 deaths. At the present moment Manila is practically free from the disease, but the provinces of Misamis, Capiz, Zamales, Antique and East Negros are badly infected.

The Tokyo correspondent of the *N.-C. Daily News* telegraphed on the 28th ult.:—"The Cabinet having sought a meeting with the party leaders proposed to lower the rate of the land tax and compensate for the consequent deficiency in funds by economy in the administration and by reducing the contemplated State enterprises, but the party leaders refused, and the rupture is therefore now complete." The same correspondent wired on the 28th December:—"The House of Representatives was dissolved to-day in consequence of the Opposition refusing to entertain any proposals for compromise. In the Premier's speech before the dissolution, he declared that the Cabinet's policy was guided entirely by convictional expediency which it was impossible to sacrifice. He said that the Ministry had spared no effort to consult the wishes of the House, but unfortunately the latter was implacable. The order of dissolution evoked much cheering and cries of 'Hurrah for the People's Party!'"

Hongkong Weekly Press

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ARRIVALS OF MAIIS.

The English mail of the 5th December arrived, per P. & O. steamer *Chusan*, on the 3rd January (29 days); the American mail of the 11th December arrived, per O. & O. steamer *Doric*, on the 10th January (30 days); and the German mail of the 9th December arrived, per N. D. L. steamer *Darmstadt*, on the 11th January (33 days).

THE CURRENCY QUESTION.

(*Daily Press*, 6th January.)

The necessity for taking some decisive step to avoid the evils brought about by the continuously falling price of silver is daily becoming more pressing in the Far East; and warned by their late experience, we find that, of the few remaining countries that have up to this retained their silver standard, Siam and the Philippines have already made the necessary preparations for the introduction of gold. The Straits Settlements are seriously contemplating a similar step. China therefore remains as the only commercial state in the world still adhering to a disparaged standard. Now the disease under which silver labours is chronic, and proceeds from natural causes inherent in the nature of the metal, or rather the processes of its extraction. At one time almost the whole of the silver used in the world was extracted from ores containing a considerable percentage of the metal, and till a few years ago it was generally expected that when the price of silver had dropped so low as to forbid the working of these ores at a profit a term would be placed on the continual fall in the metal. The uses to which silver can be put as a precious metal are strictly limited, and have hardly increased in the same ratio as the decrease in its demand owing to the discredit cast upon it as a circulating medium. As an useful metal silver has not yet sufficiently fallen in price to permit of its coming into any seriously enhanced demand, so that the market must be looked upon as in an especially dangerous condition, with every indication of further depression till a balance can be arrived at, and silver be produced at a profitable price to the pockets of its employer.

From an entirely different cause, or rather series of causes, silver finds itself forced on the market in quantities out of all proportion to the natural demand. These causes are partly of natural, but largely of artificial growth. Few metallic ores are raised that do not contain an appreciable quantity of silver, and the extraction of the metal from those ores has largely increased, owing to improved methods which have considerably reduced the cost of the process. It has thus become a sort of by-product in the reduction of other ores, especially lead and copper. The silver thus obtained must be placed on the market independent of price, nor can its production be controlled by the ordinary laws of supply and demand, the amount of silver sold being passed directly to the credit of the working account of the other metals. Even greater than this is the depressing effect produced by the conduct of China. Utterly ignorant of the political and economical motives swaying the more advanced nations, China foolishly made war on the whole world. In former days such a course could have had but one effect — China must have been wholly successful, or have ceased to exist as a nation. As a matter of fact China was ignominiously beaten from the very beginning of her ill-starred attempt. She had calculated on the jealousy of the nations giving her a free hand, and thought she would be permitted to carry out her object in detail. The result proved that, so far from being able to defeat the whole world, she was utterly unable to cope with any one of the more important Powers singly. She was saved from extinction by the patriotism of her two viceroys who fortunately had control of the basin of the Yangtsze, and the desire of the more advanced nations to give her another trial. As a punishment for her truculence

in having slaughtered in cold blood some hundreds of innocent victims, and having attempted the murder of the Ministers of the Powers at her Court she was not permitted to go scot-free. China in this could not plead ignorance. In her own palmy days she had recognised the sacred character of guests and envoys, and had herself been careful when the insult was offered to herself to inflict summary punishment on the offending nation; and the justice meted out to her was but in accordance with her own principles of statecraft. Instead of suffering the punishment in person, she was, however, let off with pecuniary indemnities. These penalties required her to pay a sum of some five millions sterling per annum, a sufficiently light infliction had she only set about payment in a statesmanlike manner. Here, however, she failed, and the methods she has been adopting have only increased her troubles. Instead of throwing open her trade and endeavouring to meet her charges by opening her markets and encouraging her export trade, which would while meeting her own engagements have directly advantaged her people, she has hampered in every way her trade, with the natural consequence that she has been compelled to meet the whole by the direct export of her own circulating medium, and as she has contrary to the more politic course taken by her neighbours persisted in maintaining her own discredited silver currency, she has been throwing on the foreign markets already overstocked an amount of that metal which, in addition to the other depressing influences at work, has made it an actual drug in the markets of the world.

This is the present condition of affairs; and as China seems unable herself to grasp the situation, the time is approaching, if it have not already come, when she must be saved from the consequences of her own folly. We are not here dealing with an independent nation; China has by her recent conduct lost all right to be considered in the matter. It is only right and reasonable to recall the fact that she has forfeited her claim to be treated as a nation at all; as a fact she only owes what measure of independence has been left to her to the sufferance of the civilised Powers; and in the interests of herself, as of the world, the time has arrived when she must reform her currency, or have it reformed for her, and what the Powers have to consider is, not what is agreeable to China, but what has become a necessity for her further existence. It is plain that the present position of affairs cannot last; there are too many foreign interests and too much foreign property at stake to permit China to play ducks and drakes, even with her own money. She is in the position of a spendthrift bankrupt who has to be restrained from spending any more of his patrimony, not less in his own interests than in those of his creditors, and one of the first and most immediate needs of the situation is such a reform in her currency as shall prevent the necessity of the export of silver to an already overstocked market. For the attainment of this end, one or two measures are of the first, and most immediate necessity. One of these, we have pointed out, is the substitution of a currency more in accordance with the practice of the rest of the world than the present discredited use of silver, now from causes beyond the control of China continually falling in value; the other also in the power of China still is to remove the present drawbacks that hinder the expansion of trade following quickly upon these, but requiring more time for its

development, is the throwing open of mines, more especially of the gold mines of the Empire. The whole of the great northern range of China, from at least the longitude of Peking eastwards to the Corean frontier, is known to be rich in deposits of this metal, now so urgently needed. By stealth, a considerable amount of gold is raised and exported yearly, and this doubtless has been tending to ease the situation; but even what gold extraction exists is done in contumacy, and is, as far as the Chinese Government is concerned, in direct opposition to its present policy, which is quite prepared to strangle its own salvation in the cradle. These things are well known to all concerned; yet no one will come to the front and urge their being put in practice. On the contrary we have been stupidly trying palliatives that only aggravate the disease they pretend to cure. When will our statesmen see that something better, and more immediate in its action, than the ineffective attempts of treaty-making which we have lately witnessed is needed in the present emergency?

(*Daily Press*, 10th January.)

If the currency question is to be satisfactorily solved, the simplest way is undoubtedly to get China placed on a gold standard. The ills that afflict China and the trade with China are largely traceable to the fluctuating silver currency. The Chinese Government have not hitherto felt the pinch to so great an extent as to induce them to seek any remedy for the evil, but now that the indemnity due to the Foreign Powers has to be paid they are made to see how grievously a declining medium of exchange may press upon the nation wedded to its use. If the *Mainichi Shinbun* is correctly informed, Count LAMSDORFF, the Russian Foreign Secretary, has been giving good advice to the Chinese Minister at St. Petersburg. He not only pressed home the advisability of China adopting a gold standard, but insisted that no alternative was possible if China is to be delivered from the financial difficulties under which she is suffering. He was also kind enough to intimate that Russia was prepared to assist China with the necessary capital by issuing gold bonds. Whether it is practicable for China to adopt a gold standard we are not now prepared to argue. She has no gold to constitute a reserve, and if she purchased it in the manner suggested she would have to pay a high price for it. Neither are we prepared to dogmatise much as to what is best for her. If she possessed the energy of the Western States and was administered by enterprising and clean-handed officials it is possible that a silver currency would work for her benefit as a producer, as the enjoyment of cheap labour and boundless stores of raw material would enable her to compete in the world's markets for most kinds of products and many staple manufactures to great advantage. But as her ruling class are all tarred so heavily with corruption that it has become ingrained, it is to be feared that the possession of natural resources and cheap labour are advantages thrown away on China.

Whether or not China yields to the voice of the charmer and embraces gold as her standard, she has at any rate solemnly covenanted to create a national coinage. This is provided for by Article II of the Commercial Treaty with Great Britain, negotiated by Sir JAMES MACKAY, which reads as follows: "China agrees to take the necessary steps to provide for a uniform national coinage, which should be legal tender in payment of all duties, taxes, and other obligations throughout the Empire by British as well as

"Chinese subjects." As China is thus bound by Treaty to provide a coinage without delay, it will be well for her Government to consider, without further waste of time, in what way she shall meet the stipulation. It would naturally be a great relief to Hongkong if she declared for gold, for that would not only smooth all difficulties from the path of this Colony, but almost necessitate the same change here. Would it not be worth while, therefore, for the colonists to consider the policy of addressing the British Imperial Government suggesting that Great Britain should throw the full weight of her influence into the scale and join in inducing the Chinese Government to follow the example of Japan and adopt a gold standard? It is apparent that China will soon be the last refuge of the white metal, and in the not unlikely contingency of Mexico some day placing her currency on the same basis as that of her great neighbour the United States, this event would actually come to pass. It is for this Colony and all foreigners engaged in trade with China, therefore, to take action in good time. We are drifting steadily from depression to disaster; it is vital to our safety that we should pull up before we reach the brink. The critical moment has arrived. The Straits Settlements are agitating for relief from the incubus of silver, and if they succeed in their efforts, the situation in Hongkong and China will be greatly intensified. Now, therefore, is the hour for action. Whatever doubts may be entertained by some timid or cautious souls as to the policy of Hongkong taking the plunge alone, there are, we imagine, none who would not welcome the change to a fixed standard if it were effected simultaneously in the Colony and in China. Assuming that on this point at least there would be unanimity we would suggest that steps be at once taken to petition the Imperial Government to urge upon the Government of Peking to take immediate steps to establish a gold currency. Also to suggest that Great Britain should lend all the assistance possible by securing the co-operation of the Powers and by floating a gold loan to China for the purpose.

THE YANGTSE INTRIGUE.

(*Daily Press*, 5th January.)

It is impossible after reading the correspondence contained in the new Parliamentary paper on China, which we publish on another page to-day, not to agree with Dr. MORRISON's charge of diplomatic duplicity against Germany in connection with the Yangtse question. As the passages which are quoted from the Parliamentary paper fully explain the progress of the negotiations which delayed the evacuation of Shanghai, it is unnecessary to describe it here; moreover, all the essential facts have already been made known by telegrams from London. The newly issued paper only fills in details of the plot with which we were acquainted before. The net result of the intrigues between the German and Chinese governments has been that the evacuation of Shanghai has been delayed about two months, and that China has given to Germany a guarantee by which Great Britain is not bound, while the other Powers except China, on Count METTERNICH's own admission in his despatch of the 7th November last, are equally unfettered. The German Minister, in the defence which he put forward on that date of Germany's conduct, stated that, as his Government merely took part in the occupation of Shanghai because the serious crisis which prevailed in the interior of China two years

ago might have brought about a change in the *status quo* in the Yangtse territory, it appeared only logical to require guarantees from China as a preliminary to the evacuation of Shanghai, which guarantees, on the re-establishment of peace, would take the place of the actual guarantees given by the occupation of Shanghai. But Count METTERNICH, it is to be observed, did not say that the crisis had brought about any change in the *status quo* in the Yangtse territory, so that it is hard to see how he and his government could persuade themselves of the "logical" necessity of new guarantees in place of, or in addition to, the previous guarantees; which latter were not the occupation of Shanghai by foreign garrisons, but engagements entered into between China and the interested Powers and between the latter themselves. When Lord LANSDOWNE on the 6th November stated that the British Government could see no reason why the withdrawal of the troops from Shanghai should be made the occasion for a fresh affirmation of the accepted principles of the "open door" and of the sovereign rights of China, he advanced on behalf of his country an irrefutable argument, which Count METTERNICH made no attempt to meet. Lord LANSDOWNE was, of course, debarred by diplomatic usage from mentioning directly the bad faith of the German government in dealing secretly with China in a matter which that government was bound to hold concerned all the Powers interested in the Yangtse region; but that Count METTERNICH was fully able to read between the lines of the despatches is evident from the tone of his note of the 7th November. His anxiety that Great Britain should recognise her "misapprehension" in thinking the engagements given to Germany by China were directed against herself is patent. But his line of defence is absurdly feeble, and the effect of the double-dealing has been to awaken the British Government to the existence of a plot to undermine British influence in central China. To call this successful diplomacy would be ridiculous. Coming after the exhibitions of German unfriendliness during the South African War, the whole affair can but be disastrous in its effects on the feelings between two nations which have every reason for working hand in hand, more particularly in the Far East. In some ways, however, British policy in China should gain by the discovery of the intrigue. We have been told by the home papers that the visit of Sir ERNEST SATOW to London is believed to be at least partly due to the desire of the Foreign Office to consult him as to Chinese affairs, and that the result of the conference may be a different British policy in China. We sincerely trust that this will be so and that one of the marks of the new policy will be that Britain will cease to play into the hands of her friendly rivals, to the serious detriment of her own interests and the despair of her subjects engaged in business in the Far East. No alteration is required in the amiable attitude which has been preserved toward competitors in the past, except that it must be amiability no longer blind, but based on a consciousness that our eyes are open to the fact that rivalry for China's trade is very keen, and that vigilance alone will keep a competitor to the front.

In a lawsuit with the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank as plaintiff, the International Court at Bangkok has decided that widows in Siam are liable for their husband's debts. Hitherto, it has been by no means an uncommon practice in Bangkok for a widow who has taken over her husband's estate to ignore the debts he had contracted.

THE "EVACUATION" OF MANCHURIA.

(*Daily Press*, 7th January.)

The criticisms by a Manchurian correspondent of the *Novoe Vremya*, as given in another column to-day, respecting the state of affairs in Manchuria, are sufficiently explicit to have been written by an observer unfriendly to Russia's policy. Coming as they do from the representative of a St. Petersburg newspaper, they must be looked upon as a clear revelation of the present situation. It will be remarked that they bear out in the strongest possible manner the recent statements of Dr. MORRISON, Peking correspondent of the *Times*, as to Russia's "evacuation" of the Chinese province. Dr. MORRISON pointed out that the withdrawal of Russian troops from Manchuria was merely nominal, as they were simply retired to the various strategic points of the so-called "evacuated" districts and were in as complete possession as if Manchuria were generally recognised as a Russian possession. The *Novoe Vremya*'s correspondent states that it seems as if his fellow-countrymen had just begun to settle in the province, instead of leaving it, and that no Russian doubts that there is a brilliant future for his nationals in Manchuria. The annexation of Manchuria to Russia, therefore, would seem to be an accomplished fact, and in taking into consideration the state of affairs in China we must no longer disguise this. It is needless to point out that this is a breach of faith on the part of the St. Petersburg Government, which, though not of a nature to create surprise, yet cannot be entirely disregarded. The consequence entailed upon Great Britain is a change of attitude, which, it is sincerely to be trusted, will be included in the alteration of British policy which is expected to spring out of Sir ERNEST SATOW's visit to London. If no attention is paid by Russia to promises involving herself, China, and other Powers, it is obvious that such Powers cannot observe the same line of conduct as if Russia had acted honestly. At the present moment the latter country is pursuing a policy tending to give her not only the predominant, but even the sole voice in the affairs of Northern Asia. A year ago there was concluded a compact between Britain and Japan, the real intent of which cannot be interpreted except as a desire to check any attempt to disturb the balance of power at that time. The annexation of Manchuria, important in itself, also threatens alike Peking and Corea. Unless the whole of North-eastern Asia is to be handed over to Russian rule and exploitation it is necessary to establish a counterpoise to the additional weight which the gain of Manchuria gives to Russia. A continuation of the diplomacy by which Port Arthur was presented to Russia in return for nothing at all merely means that Britain retires definitely from North China, and with her the other commercial Powers too.

The Tsar of Russia granted an audience at Livadia on the 25th November to a deputation of Buddhist Buriats from Eastern Siberia, who are Russian subjects. They prayed the Tsar to permit them to continue their nomadic life as heretofore, and not to bind them down to fixed domiciles. The Tsar expressed his pleasure at the trust reposed in him by the Buriats, but they must submit to the laws and abandon their nomadic life for the future. They must seek settled habitations for themselves, and with entire confidence conform to the laws relating thereto, for it was incompatible with the increasing culture and economic interests of the remaining population of Siberia that nomad tribes should be further tolerated.

TUNG FU-HSIANG'S MOVEMENTS.

(*Daily Press*, 3rd January.)

The reports of TUNG FU-HSIANG's threatening attitude in Kansu are now, it is sincerely to be hoped with good authority, denied from Peking; but it is difficult to feel any sense of security while this dangerous malcontent is alive and free. However, it is perhaps safe to conclude that the danger is not so imminent as it was thought to be when we wrote on this subject nearly two weeks ago. We then mentioned that, on the authority of two recent travellers through Ninghsia, TUNG was supposed to be in the hill district of Kansu midway between Lanchow and Hsianfu, that the natives were much alarmed and that the women missionaries in the neighbourhood had been sent to Shanghai. It will be seen from REUTER's London telegram of the 31st December that H.B.M. Consul at Hankow has warned the foreign missionaries in the Hsianfu region to be prepared to leave their stations if necessary, and has recommended them to send their women and children to safety. Whether the danger of rebellion is immediately threatening or not, this action of the British Consul must be considered a very wise step, and it is much to be regretted that the British Consuls in the interior of China do not use their influence more over missionaries of their own nationality and even go so far as to prevent, if possible, women connected with missionary bodies from going outside the limits of the Treaty ports. The proselytising societies, in spite of the terrible warnings of 1900, are persisting in their blind and really criminal course of encouraging the presence of helpless women and children hundreds of miles from the limits of Western civilisation and among the least civilised of the Chinese. It is but very rarely that any consul has the strength of mind to do anything to restrain such folly. This is by no means creditable, and Mr. E. H. FRAZER's action is therefore all the more worthy of note.

PLAQUE PRECAUTIONS IN NO. 4 HEALTH DISTRICT.

(*Daily Press*, 3rd January.)

Though the hastily summoned meeting of the Sanitary Board last Wednesday for the purpose of closing up a block of buildings in the Fourth Health District of this city might at first sight seem rather alarming, mature reflection must convince us that there is reason for satisfaction in the promptitude with which the Board has acted. It used to be a common impression here, arising we know not whence, that our medical authorities were not unwilling, for the purpose of avoiding alarming the inhabitants, to conceal rather than make known the presence of plague in our midst. But the lessons of the past have not been lost; and during the last two years no such accusations as were once freely hinted at can be made. It is recognised that the best way to combat this most difficult of diseases is by an intelligent co-operation between the authorities and those liable to be attacked. Last year elaborate instructions and advice were given as to the proper methods of avoiding plague—we would suggest that these should be issued again, in Chinese, should the disease show any sign of spreading—and where vigorous action was necessary it was at least not applied against a population ignorant of its purport. The neighbourhood where the recent cases have occurred is the part of the Fourth District where plague seems particularly persistent—that is, along the western side of D'Aguilar

Street, and it is therefore all the more advisable that the fullest possible precautions should be taken to nip in the bud any threatened fresh outbreak. The Sanitary Board is to be congratulated on its decision. As will have been seen from the report of the meeting on Wednesday, the Government has been recommended, and will without doubt agree, to make sufficient provision for the accommodation of the displaced inhabitants of the closed block of buildings. There will, therefore, be no hardships involved for the 1,500 natives, of the chair-coolie class, who will be compelled to shift from the premises. The district in which the block lies, bounded by Wellington Street, Pottinger Street, and, on two sides, Wyndham Street, has been defined as a district within which house-to-house visitation will be carried out. Such measures are dictated by sound commonsense and should be the best possible way of averting any dangerous consequences of the three cases of plague reported.

PIRACY IN THE CANTON NEIGHBOURHOOD.

(*Daily Press*, 9th January.)

The assurance given on the 26th November by the Hon. F. H. MAY, Colonial Secretary, to the Secretary of the local Chamber of Commerce, that the Canton Government is really making efforts to suppress piracy on the West and Canton Rivers and that arrangements are being made to patrol the Delta with two Chinese gunboats under European command, has no doubt been received with satisfaction by those whose business is in any way connected with the neighbouring mainland of China. It may be remembered that we wrote on this matter on the 19th November last, after the tragic death of Mr. EVANS, following on the attack on him at Cha Si on the 12th of that month. We then advocated the use of some of the Chinese vessels lying at Whampoa, under capable commanders, to police the pirate-infested waters, commanding the question to the attention of the Chamber of Commerce. We are glad to see that the Chamber lost no time in making representations to the Government here—in a letter dated the 21st November—and that the Colonial Secretary's reply was so satisfactory. Of course, we are not so sanguine as to believe that the matter has ended now and that piracy is threatened with instant suppression. On the contrary, long and sustained efforts will be required, and the utmost vigilance will be necessary to see that the Chinese authorities keep their promise and do not relax their exertions. Nevertheless, with so efficient a British Consul as Mr. JAMES SCOTT watching at Canton and with the attention of the Hongkong Government engaged in the matter, we feel that the state of affairs is very much better than it was when we wrote some six weeks ago.

We very much regret to learn from the home papers of the death of Captain Harry Rotherham, Royal Welsh Fusiliers, who will be remembered as a most popular officer and sportsman out here. The sporting world in general is the poorer by the death of Capt. Rotherham, who was one of the famous Warwickshire cricket and football family, and was a fine Rugby forward. He played both cricket and football for the Coventry Club, and though he never attained to county honours he was a first-class player at both games. His cricket in Hongkong is still fresh in our memories, and many friends will regret his untimely death, which is said to have been due to complications resulting from fever contracted in China. He was in bad health when he left Hongkong.

QUARANTINE AGAINST HONGKONG.

(*Daily Press*, 9th January.)

It will be noticed with regret by all interested in the welfare of this Colony that the Netherlands-Indian Government has already declared quarantine restrictions against arrivals from Hongkong on account of plague. The extent of these restrictions may be seen by referring to the terms of the notice forwarded to us by the Dutch Consul-General. A reference to the last issue of the *Government Gazette* shows that previously to this announcement Hongkong at the present moment suffers from the imposition of sanitary measures at Manila, Lisbon, and Bangkok. At Manila, only the importation of fresh vegetables is prohibited. At Lisbon, the Portuguese Board of Health as long ago as the 15th May, 1902, declared Hongkong and Canton infected with cholera, and this regulation seems never to have been rescinded. Vessels calling at Bangkok from here or from China ports have still to call at Paknam for pratique, this rule dating from September 1st. Now while Hongkong suffers periodically from epidemics it is useless, and indeed foolish, to protest against the rest of the world taking precautions against the dissemination of diseases from this port. But of unjust discrimination against Hongkong there is every reason to complain. At the present moment we are still regarded as infected with cholera, whereas the disease disappeared from the Colony in September, only two cases in October being recorded in the mortality returns since then; and we are charged with being plague-infected on account of three cases in one particular part of the Fourth Health District, the inhabitants of which were at once removed and the block of buildings closed. Hongkong is now no more plague or cholera-infected than any other part of the Far East, and the vexatious restrictions which shippers from Hongkong are compelled to suffer are an injustice against which they have a right to make a protest. Of course it may be argued that the remedy is to extirpate the diseases referred to from the Colony entirely, and this is no doubt the counsel of perfection. In the meantime extraordinary precautions are being taken here to prevent the outbreak and spread of contagious disease, and it might in fairness be asked in return that our neighbours will not, in a state of panic, impose stringent measures against us without due cause. As things are at present, Hongkong is practically banned by the Netherlands-Indian Government all the year round, which we cannot but regard as an undue hardship on those who have dealings between this port and the Dutch Indies.

The revenue of Perak for 1903 is set at \$9,02,390 against an estimated revenue of \$9,894,075 in 1902. The outlay is given at \$8,739,269 against \$7,800,000 the figures for 1902. In 1903 education claims \$1,17,057, and the preservation of coconuts \$2,290. Federal charges mount up to \$4,467,416, and public works to \$1,787,025.

Commander Yorke, R.N., has arrived at Weihaiwei and has taken over charge of the Naval Department on the Island. His correct title is King's Harbourmaster. The Weihaiwei correspondent of the *Shanghai Mercury* says that a well known and thoroughly competent American mining expert has lately been there to give his professional opinion on the mining prospect of Weihaiwei. The correspondent is told that he is more than satisfied with what he has seen in the territory, and no doubt mining operations will shortly be started.

HONGKONG SANITARY BOARD.

A meeting of the Sanitary Board was held on the 8th inst. in the Board Room. Present:—Dr. J. M. Atkinson, Principal Civil Medical Officer (President); Hon. W. Chatham, Director of Public Works; Hon. Dr. F. W. Clark, Medical Officer of Health; Colonel Webb, R.A.M.C.; Mr. F. J. Baddeley, Captain Superintendent of Police; Mr. C. McL. Messor, Acting Registrar-General; Mr. E. Osborne, Mr. Fung Wa Chun, Mr. Lau Chu Pak, and Mr. G. A. Woodcock (Secretary).

NULLAH WATER FOR PRIVATE PURPOSES.

Correspondence was laid on the table relative to the adjourned application from Messrs. Palmer & Turner, architects and surveyors, for permission to erect three water-closets in the building on Island Lot No. 1,633. The applicants stated that there was an abundant supply of water in the gully on the east side of the lot, producing a constant stream of water even in the driest season. The water was at present running to waste, and it was proposed to apply to Government for permission to utilise it for flushing purposes.

The following minutes were attached:—

Col. Hughes:—"Grant permission."

Mr. Osborne:—"If this stream is available for flushing purposes, why is it not used for the public sewers?"

Hon. Dr. Clark:—"Grant, if water supply is obtained from a well on the premises, and not from the nullah."

Hon. W. Chatham:—"The stream could only be made available for flushing a comparatively short length of sewer in Macdonnell Road and the Peak Road all of which have good gradients and can scarcely be said to require flushing. The small quantity of water in the stream during the dry season would not, in my opinion, justify the expense which would be necessary in order to render it available for flushing, even assuming it to be required."

The PRESIDENT said that these papers had been considered at the last meeting, but as there were so few present it had been decided to postpone the consideration thereof to this meeting, when it was hoped that more of the members would be present. It had been the rule of the Board in considering these applications to deal with them on their merits. In 1893 there was a special committee appointed by the Board to consider this question of the introduction of water-closets generally in the Colony and this committee recommended that the introduction of water-closets should be restricted and discouraged as much as possible and should only be erected in the case of European hotels, clubs, and blocks of offices. This application referred to an European house on the upper levels, and it appeared that there was some water practically running to waste in a nullah to the east of this house. Personally, it appeared to him a much more cleanly and sanitary arrangement to have water-closets in a house of this kind if by doing so one was not trespassing upon the limited water supply of the Colony, and he was in favour of granting the application.

Hon. Mr. CHATHAM stated that he was not aware that this water was being used at the present moment; a condition to the granting of the application should be that if the water was at any future time required this supply would have to be disconnected. Otherwise he saw no objection to permission being granted.

Hon. Dr. CLARK asked the Director of Public Works if he could tell the Board how it was proposed to obtain the water from the nullah. If they had to dam the stream he would be strongly opposed to it on the ground that the Government were spending large sums of money and using every effort, particularly in that portion of the city, to prevent accumulations of water which served as breeding places for anopheline mosquitoes with resultant cases of malarial fever, especially in that neighbourhood. He did not see how they could very well get the water from the nullah without putting a small dam across, and therefore he thought it would be better to dig a well, which would have to be covered than to obtain water from this nullah.

Hon. Mr. CHATHAM replied that the water could be got without the construction of a dam, by simply forming a very small channel that would lead the water into the pipe. A tank

would be placed on or near the premises for storing the water. So he presumed there would be no chance of the water stagnating and giving rise to any such nuisance as the Medical Officer of Health had mentioned. With regard to the sinking of a well, it would be useless to do so on the site of the nullah; the well would require to be in the stream bed or somewhere near it in order to obtain water, so there would be no great gain by the adoption of that method.

Mr. OSBORNE thought they ought in considering this application to be guided by the fact that this was only one of a series that would probably come afterwards. Personally he had no objection to the granting of this application on its own merits, except, as he said in his minute, that if this water was available for water-closets of private houses it was also available for flushing the public drains. He believed one of the recommendations of Mr. Chadwick was the formation of tanks on the upper levels to gather water from the main streams and use it for flushing purposes. He did not see why they should allow any of the streams to be tapped for private purposes when they could be utilised for the public use. Also this stream to his knowledge was, during the late drought, used extensively by the Chinese; it was their only source of supply, and he did not think they should curtail any of the sources of supply which the Chinese resort to, except for Government purposes. This was an instance where the ordinary system of sanitation in vogue was quite good enough, but if the owner of the house particularly wished to have water-closets he should provide his own supply by means of a well. If the owner was prepared to do that he would vote for the granting of the application, otherwise he could not.

Hon. Mr. CHATHAM was sorry to transgress order, but he rose to make a remark with regard to Mr. Osborne's statement concerning Mr. Chadwick's proposal. He thought, if he referred to that proposal, Mr. Osborne would find that the drains in the Hill District generally were all found to be in good condition, and Mr. Chadwick said that flushing was not required in these cases; it was on the low levels that flushing should be provided. He suggested one tank which would serve for flushing the main sewers, and steps were being taken with a view to the construction of a tank of large dimensions for flushing the main sewers. These were the sewers requiring flushing; it was not the sewers on the hills, where there were ample falls in nearly all cases. With regard to the sinking of a well, the water percolated through the ground into the streams, so that the sinking of a well would deprive the stream probably of quite as much water as if there was a drain from it leading off into a pipe. Then again an attempt to utilise all those tiny, dribbling streams by means of small pipes leading for great distances to where the flushing tanks were provided would be almost impracticable. These were liable to become choked up during rain-storms with gravel and sand. He instanced the case of the Cricket Ground, where at considerable expense a pipe was led from the nullah to a tank for watering purposes; this had been abandoned entirely, because it was such a continual nuisance through becoming choked.

Hon. Dr. CLARK remarked that they were all out of order, as there was no resolution before the meeting. He moved that the application be granted subject to the provision of a well by which a water-supply for the water-closets might be secured. In doing so, he might be permitted to say with regard to the remarks of the Director of Public Works that whether a flushing tank was put on the hills or on the level of the Parade Ground it was the same stream that filled it; therefore if a tank was placed higher up there would be less down below to fill the flushing tank.

Mr. OSBORNE seconded.

Hon. Mr. CHATHAM moved that the application be granted as it stood, provided that the owner obtained the permission of Government to use the water from the stream.

Mr. FUNG WA CHUN seconded.

On the vote being taken by a show of hands, the amendment of Mr. Chatham was declared carried.

The PRESIDENT—Of course this is on the understanding that if the water is required for public purposes it would be liable to be cut off?

Hon. Mr. CHATHAM—Certainly, sir.

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES.

Correspondence was laid on the table relative to the completion of the urinal on the Praya, near Queen Street. Delay had been caused in the carrying out of this and similar works (the Director of Public Works reported) by the failure of the Green Island Co. to supply the glazed bricks required.

Mr. E. Osborne intimated:—"If the Green Island Cement Co. is delaying the construction of these latrines, surely the glazed bricks can be got elsewhere. Are the Green Island Co. also delaying the one opposite the Cricket Ground? Work has been suspended for a very long time."

Hon. Mr. CHATHAM stated that the small urinal opposite the Cricket Ground had been delayed on account of bricks. The latest delay had occurred through the contractor absconding and the consequent difficulty in arranging for another contractor to take over the work. Arrangements were being made, however, and he hoped the work would soon be completed. All the work of that nature had been seriously delayed owing to the failure of the local Company to supply them with bricks.

FOOD AND DRUGS ANALYSES.

The return of the examinations made under the Sale of Food and Drugs Ordinance, 1898, for the quarter ended 31st December, 1902, showed that the Government Analyst, Mr. Frank Browne, had analysed 1 sample of gin, 3 samples of milk, and 3 of whisky. One sample of milk was found to be adulterated. All the other samples were genuine.

WATER ANALYSES.

Mr. F. Browne, Analyst, reported that the results of his analyses of the public water supplies for the month of December showed the water to be of excellent quality.

DESTRUCTION OF RATS.

During the week ended 29th December 3,160 rats were destroyed, of which 19 were infected. On the two remaining days of the month the numbers caught were 634 and 617 respectively; of these 10 were infected.

Hon. Dr. CLARK stated that the number of rats destroyed during the year just closed was 117,839, so he thought they had done fairly well.

Mr. FUNG WA CHUN asked what were the figures in the previous year?

Hon. Dr. CLARK—About 48,000; this year it is nearly treble.

Mr. OSBORNE—What is the rat population?

Hon. Dr. CLARK—I have not taken the census yet. (Laughter.)

LIMEWASHING.

The limewashing returns for the fortnight ended Saturday, 3rd January, showed that 2,667 houses in the Western District had been dealt with. There still remained 60 tenement houses to be limewashed.

THE CLEANSING OPERATIONS.

The PRESIDENT said it might interest the members to know that the cleansing operations instituted by the Board some two months ago had been carried on by the Chinese in a satisfactory manner. Between the dates 9th and 20th December, the period when most of the work practically was done, 135 carts of rubbish were removed from the various houses in the Colony; and since 15th December, the date on which the cleansing was supposed to cease, he thought he was correct in stating that there had been only six prosecutions for dirty floors, so that the Board might congratulate themselves on the result of leaving the work to the Chinese. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. FUNG WA CHUN expressed his satisfaction at the good results obtained. He mentioned that the Chinese commercial community, of which he was the head, had had 22,000 handbills printed and distributed by means of the district watchmen among the inhabitants on each floor of tenement houses in the Colony. He was glad to find that these notices had been acted upon so well by the Chinese.

This was all the business.

Some three hundred natives, men and women, raided the British camp at Shanghai directly, it was vacated, and carried off nearly all the furniture and things in it. One of the culprits having been arrested has been sentenced to five hundred blows and to be caned for three months.

HONGKONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

At a meeting of the General Committee of the Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce, held in the Chamber Room, City Hall, on Tuesday, 16th December, 1902, at 3.30 p.m., Present:—Mr. W. Poate (Vice-Chairman), Messrs. E. A. Hewett, C. Michelau, N. A. Siebs, H. E. Tomkins, R. C. Wilcox and A. K. Lowe (Secretary).

MINUTES.

The minutes of the last monthly meeting held on 18th ult. were read and confirmed.

NEW MEMBER OF COMMITTEE.

Mr. C. Michelau took his seat on the Committee, in accordance with the invitation extended to him at the last meeting.

The VICE-CHAIRMAN said—I welcome Mr. Michelau's presence on the Committee, and I am sure that we shall receive from him the same valuable advice and assistance in our deliberations as we were accustomed to receive from his predecessor, Mr. Haupt.

NEW MEMBERS.

The SECRETARY reported that Mr. H. M. H. Nemazee and Messrs. Rozario & Co. had been duly elected to membership since the last meeting, subject to the usual confirmation at the next annual general meeting.

STORM-WARNINGS.

The report of Sub-Committee re storm-warnings was then read:—

Hongkong, 12th December, 1902.

As requested by the General Committee of the Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce, we have considered the question of the form which the storm-warnings issued by the Hongkong Observatory should take in order that they may be of more practical use to the sea-faring and shore communities, and we have had the benefit of the suggestions and opinions expressed in the correspondence addressed to the Chamber by the shipping firms and the masters of steamers trading from this port. This correspondence shows a strong desire for better information as to the position and direction of typhoon-storms, and also that the methods of imparting the same by the local Observatory are not equal to those of many other ports.

1. We are of opinion that, while signalling by flags gives much greater scope for making signals of all kinds, the initial cost and the expense of keeping the necessarily expert signalling staff is against this method, and we advise the signalling to be done by symbols which are more economical, easier to work, and better understood by landsmen. These symbols should be in the form of a diamond, cone, and drum hoisted on a mast with yard across. The code used should be the 37 special distance signals of the Commercial Code and in order to prevent confusion with that Code and to indicate the signals are distinctly meteorological, the diamond-shape should be substituted for the ball-shape, and a diamond-shape kept permanently at the mast-head.

2. We also agree with suggestions made by the ship-masters that additional signal stations should be placed on Green Island, Waglan, and Gap Rock, and arrangements made for similar storm-warnings to be shown from Cape Padarang.

3. It would enable shipmasters who are on the point of clearing to obtain the latest weather information if the Harbour Office could be put in direct telephonic communication with the Observatory.

4. Endeavours should be made to obtain observations from Hainan.

5. The Government might approach the Telegraph Companies with the object of obtaining their consent to receive and despatch observations at (say) 9 a.m. every day in connection with the observations up and down the coast.

6. The Government should see that the latest instruments are put at the disposal of the Observatory.

7. When offered, weather forecasts should be received from other Observatories and published as such. All such information would be welcome by shipmasters and there would not be any necessity for the local Observatory to accept any responsibility in respect to the correctness of the forecast.

8. Attached is a copy of the Code suggested.

The symbols should be painted red, but the colour is immaterial unless it is found desirable to double the number of signals. The Code with the meaning suggested should be printed on cards and attention particularly drawn to Signal No. 31 before the hoisting of which it should not be necessary for the sampans and cargo-boats to stop work and seek shelter. If necessary additional signals may be made by further combinations of the three symbols employed or by similar signals horizontally displayed from the yard-arm. Also if found desirable, the meanings attached to the signals given in the suggested Code may be altered or transposed.

G. C. ANDERSON.
H. W. BUCKLAND.
J. GOOSMANN.
G. M. YOUNG.

The VICE-CHAIRMAN expressed his opinion that the Sub-Committee had formulated a report containing many valuable suggestions, and he thought a copy of it should be forwarded to the Government for their consideration.

This was unanimously agreed to.

PROPOSED LICENSING OF PILOTS.

Read the replies of the Shipping Firms and Agencies to the letter addressed to them on the 1st ultimo, asking whether they were of opinion that some proper control should be exercised over the pilots similar to what is done in other ports.

The VICE-CHAIRMAN said the replies showed that it was the general wish of the Shipping Firms and Agencies to have the men employed in this responsible work under control, and that a system of licensing was necessary to carry this into effect. The letters also conveyed the opinion that compulsory pilotage in Hongkong Harbour was unnecessary and undesirable.

After some discussion it was decided to open up this matter with the Government again.

PIRACY ON THE WEST RIVER.

The SECRETARY reported that representations were made to the Government, in a letter dated 21st ultimo, on the subject of the continued prevalence of piracy on the West River, in which the opinion was expressed that early and strong representations should be made to H. M. Minister at Peking and H. B. M. Consul-General at Canton with a view to adequate pressure being brought by them on the Chinese Authorities to institute and keep up a proper patrol of the waters of the Delta. The following reply was read:—

Colonial Secretary's Office,
26th November, 1902.

SIR,—In reply to your letter of the 21st inst., concerning the continued prevalence of piracy on the West River, I am directed to inform you that His Excellency the Governor had already made representations to His Britannic Majesty's Minister at Peking on this matter, with the result that every effort is being made by the Viceroy of the Two Kwang to bring the offenders to justice.

2. Arrangements are being made to patrol the delta of the Canton River with two Chinese gunboats under European command, and His Excellency hopes that a settlement of the claims of the injured persons will be effected in a short time—I have the honour to be, Sir, your obedient servant,

F. H. MAY,
Colonial Secretary.

THE SECRETARY.

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce. The VICE-CHAIRMAN said that reply was satisfactory and he trusted that the Canton Government would continue to keep in force the arrangements made to patrol the delta efficiently.

Mr. WILCOX said it was satisfactory to notice that adequate compensation had been claimed and he understood obtained from the Chinese authorities in the case of the recent murder of a British subject. He thought much credit was due to Mr. Scott, the British Consul, for his vigorous action in this and other matters.

PROPOSED FAST SERVICE ACROSS THE ATLANTIC BY THE C.P.R.

Read letter, dated 21st October last, from the Postmaster-General of Canada acknowledging the receipt of a copy of the resolution of the Chamber on the subject of the proposed fast Atlantic service by the C.P.R., forwarded to him on the 22nd September last, and stating that the matter was receiving careful attention

INCREASE OF TAX AT ON ON OPIUM AT CANTON.

The following letter was read:—
Colonial Secretary's Office,
2nd December, 1902.

SIR.—With reference to previous correspondence, I have much pleasure in informing you that His Britannic Majesty's Consul-General in Canton has been successful in securing the final abolition of the tax on prepared Opium in the Two Kwang Provinces.—I have the honour to be, Sir, your obedient servant,

F. H. MAY,
Colonial Secretary.

The SECRETARY,
Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce. The VICE-CHAIRMAN said this again was a most satisfactory communication from the Government in reply to the Chamber's representations on this subject, and that great credit was due to H. B. Majesty's representatives at Peking and Canton for bringing about the abolition of the new tax.

It was decided to put on record the Committee's appreciation of the energetic manner in which Sir Ernest Satow and Mr. Consul-General Scott had brought this matter to a satisfactory conclusion.

THE CURRENCY QUESTION.

The following letter from the Singapore Chamber of Commerce was read:—

Chamber of Commerce,
Singapore, 28th November, 1902.

DEAR SIR,—it will be within your recollection that some five years ago in connection with a movement then made in this Colony for fixity of exchange, this Chamber addressed the Hongkong Chamber of Commerce with the object of ascertaining its views on that question, and enquiring if any action in the same direction was contemplated by the Colony of Hongkong.

2. The reply received at that time was, in effect, that, situated as Hongkong is on the borders of the greatest silver-using country in the world, it would be impracticable for that Colony to attempt any change of currency, and that the Hongkong Chamber of Commerce did not feel able, linked as the interests of Hongkong were with silver, to move in the matter.

3. Since then, however, much has happened; silver has fallen to 22d per ounce, its lowest recorded value; not only does further decline seem not improbable, but there are those who hold the view that still further serious depreciation is before us; the heavy fall in the sterling value of the dollar has borne heavily upon many interests in the Colony, and doubtless this, and the uncertainty as to the future, is being experienced in like degree in Hongkong.

4. The Singapore Chamber has recently again moved the Government in the matter with a view to investigating and considering fixity, and as a result the Secretary of State for the Colonies has, as you doubtless are aware, appointed a Committee, of which Sir David Barbour is Chairman to enquire into and report on the matter in the combined interests of the Straits Settlements and the Federated Malay States.

5. In view of the large trade which exists between the Straits Settlements and Malay Peninsula, and the Colony of Hongkong it is possible that the question may be regarded as again merit consideration by your Chamber, and I have therefore been instructed to enquire if the views of the Hongkong Chamber as expressed in 1897 remain unaltered, and also to ask you to be so good as to favour this Chamber with any information that may be of assistance to us on this difficult and important question.

Yours faithfully,

ALEX. GUNN,
The SECRETARY,
Chamber of Commerce, Hongkong.

In the discussion which followed it was agreed by the majority that nothing had arisen to alter the position taken up by the Chamber in 1897, but, owing to several members of the Committee being absent, it was considered desirable to call a special meeting of the Committee to allow the absent members a chance to discuss the matter. It was decided to leave till then the question of the desirability of calling a special general meeting of the Chamber, and also in the event of a general meeting being called, whether the Committee should express their views on the subject.

CABLE RATES.

The SECRETARY drew attention to the fact that on 23rd October last, Sir Edward Sassoon asked the Postmaster-General in the House of Commons whether he was aware that cable rates from Hongkong to England via the Great Northern line were practically double those charged from Hongkong to Russia and whether he would remonstrate with that Company with a view to a reduction in the charges made. The Postmaster-General in his reply stated that the matter was under consideration in the Colonial Office and he hoped that it might be possible to reduce the rates between Great Britain and Hongkong.

THE CHAIRMAN'S INTERVIEW WITH SIR ERNEST SATOW.

The VICE-CHAIRMAN said the Chairman had, as arranged at the last meeting, waited on H. E. Sir Ernest Satow on the 5th instant, in order to express the thanks of the Chamber for the ever ready and powerful assistance he had given whenever they had occasion to make representations to him, and to convey congratulations on the conspicuous successes which had attended His Excellency's efforts to champion trading and British interests generally in China. The Chairman referred to the recent attempt to impose fresh taxes on opium which had been satisfactorily settled, and also to the request made for increased facilities for steamer traffic on the West River, which it was understood was favourably looked upon by the Viceroy. He informed His Excellency that the Committee ventured to express the hope that with some pressure the obstacles standing in the way of the granting of the petition might be removed at an early date. Allusion was made to the serious disabilities under which trade on the Canton delta and on the West River is now suffering from the continued, if not increasing, pest of piracy, an evil injuriously affecting Chinese and foreigners alike, and the Chairman specially trusted that His Excellency would strongly move the Chinese Government to take speedy measures in hand to effectually sweep away all such predatory bands, and to restore security of life and property on the waterways of the neighbouring province. The Chairman had informed him that His Excellency had promised to do what he could to advance the views of the Chamber, and desired his thanks to be conveyed to the Committee for the expression of their appreciation of his efforts in the past.

This concluded the business before the meeting.

At a special meeting of the Committee of the Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce held in the Chamber Room, City Hall, on Tuesday, 23rd December, 1902, at 4 p.m. Present:—Hon. C. S. Sharp (Chairman), Mr. W. Poate (Vice-Chairman), Hon. G. W. Dickson, Messrs. E. A. Hewett, C. Michelau, N. A. Siebs, J. R. M. Smith, H. F. Tomkins, R. C. Wilcox and A. R. Lowe (Secretary).

The CHAIRMAN said—We are met here today in consequence of what is seemingly a general desire, as expressed by means of suggestions, if not demands, in the columns of the public Press, as well as in consequence of a renewed request from our neighbours at Singapore, that we should consider whether it would be possible or advisable for this Colony to take steps by means of urging on the Government, or otherwise, to deal with the silver question, and if possible, bring about some measure of stability in exchange. It is needless to say that this is a question closely affecting us all, and the trade of the Colony, and of late the position has been much accentuated by the changes adopted in neighbouring countries, which have no doubt combined with other causes to bring about a heavy fall in the gold value of the white metal, and further a movement is now in progress having for its object to place the currency of the Straits Settlements on a gold basis, which, if carried out, will no doubt have a further depreciating effect on the value of silver. A similar movement is also being made in regard to the Philippines. This is a subject which in past years has received not a little attention from preceding Committees of this Chamber, the result of which I will shortly summarise:—

1892, 19th November. A general meeting of members passed the following resolution:—

"That the Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce recommend to, and urge upon, Her Majesty's Government the desirability of adopting in concert with the other European Governments, with the Government of the United States and with that of India, also with those of other countries, if so desired, such means as will lessen if not remove the present serious uncertainty in exchange between silver and gold-using countries which has had so disturbing and so universally injurious an effect upon British Commerce with all Eastern and silver-using countries."

1893, 17th March. Committee addressed Government a request that the home authorities be pressed to fully consider the interests of this Colony in any measures proposed with regard to Indian currency. Letters were also exchanged with various bodies on the same subject, and at the Annual Meeting held in 1894, 11th May, the Chairman pointed out that, though foreign traders in China suffered by the Indian movement, the natives had been benefitted by it.

1897, 27th August. A letter was addressed by the Singapore Chamber of Commerce inviting this Chamber to co-operate in moving for some remedy to bring about fixity of exchange, a subject they were then considering, and asking if this Chamber contemplated taking any action on this important matter. On 4th September, this Chamber replied that the positions occupied by the two Colonies were very different, which rendered combined action impossible in the direction of procuring relief from the instability of silver, and stating that, situated on the borders of the greatest silver-using Empire in the world, with which country its trade is mainly conducted, it would be wholly impracticable for this Colony to attempt a currency divorce from China, however much, for some reasons, such a departure might at first sight seem desirable, "and the Committee do not see their way to take either individual or combined action in recommending to the Government any change in the existing currency here," and at the General Meeting in 1898, 5th April, the Chairman said: "There seems to have been great differences of opinion in the Singapore Chamber on this complex problem of the silver question, but here we could feel none so far as the standard is concerned, as it is quite impracticable to effect a divorce from the currency of China, where our main trade lies, and with which we are in such proximity." The situation we have in these days to face is more accentuated than before, and we have now to consider whether, in view of all the circumstances which have transpired of recent years, it is advisable to alter previous views, or to adhere to same. This question seriously affects all in the Colony, with the exception possibly, of the natives, who may be affected in a lesser degree, or who may conceivably benefit to some extent from the cheaper silver, but I take it that what we are chiefly concerned to consider is how any such proposed change as a resort to a gold basis, or other means of arriving at a fixity of exchange, is likely to affect the trade of the place *as a whole*, a question of the most complex nature, and one requiring the deepest insight of the most learned experts in such matters. It appears to me that there is too great a disposition shown on the part of some writers in the public Press to ignore or to gloss over the serious difficulties in the way, and to propound measures which sound charmingly simple, but which would be totally unworkable in actual practice, whilst others give utterance to vague complaints that "something must be done," but at the same time suggest no remedy. Naturally we are all prone to look at things from our own personal point of view. I feel quite assured, if our dollars are to be demonetised, and the currency placed on a gold basis, there will be a fearful bill to meet in disposing of our old monetised currency, which is estimated at many millions—how many millions there are some of our banking friends may possibly be able to guess—and how this loss is to be met I cannot well conceive, nor do the complainants in the papers venture to suggest, at all events they are discreetly silent on the point. I doubt very much whether the Government would foot such a bill. This is one of the "liars in the path"—and a monster he is—which complainants should first show us their

ideas about disposing of. We should no doubt each of us like to see our dollars converted into a fixed sterling sum, possibly above to-day's parity, but the great question with which we here are concerned is, would that benefit or ruin our trade as a whole? We seem, from the nature of things, intrinsically bound up with China in the matter of trade and currency, and till that great Empire "goes gold" I fail to see how we can take such a course. "What is one man's meat is another man's poison," and so, as in previous years was pointed out to our Singapore friend, "the positions occupied by the two Colonies are very different." My own personal view, therefore, is that, although a gold basis would no doubt benefit many individuals here, the Colony, from its peculiar situation, would inevitably suffer, and heavily so, in its trade by adopting any other currency than that in which the foreign trade with China is conducted, and that if a change be made, we shall see a gradual setting away from us of the tide to ports and places on the mainland with a gradual tendency to leave Hongkong like a ship stranded on a reef with the tide gone down. That would not in the end benefit the individual, and would be a very great calamity indeed to the Colony at large. Then, how would the adoption of a gold basis suit the native traders of the place? I am quite prepared to hear some of the public urge that this is a British Colony and that in such matters the native does not require much or any consideration as against the foreigners' necessities or requirements, but, as Government assistance would be necessary before any such change could be brought about, I do not for a moment think that the interests of the native traders would be ignored, but that they would be given the fullest weight to, and, if I do not misjudge the position, I hazard the opinion that the interests of the natives here are bound up with cheap silver, and, since they would have in one way or another to pay their share of the heavy cost of demonetising the dollar, to which I have already referred, is it at all likely, as things are, that such a change would be brought about, or assented to by the Government to the damage of the native trading interest? As to the chances in favour of China "going gold" there are so many factors to be taken into consideration that one would require to write volumes, and have vast store of special knowledge to deal with such a mighty problem. As regards the liquidation of her foreign gold indebtedness, the institution of a gold currency would at first seem to simplify matters, but with all her currency arrangements in such a chaotic state, and the general backwardness of her fiscal and other institutions, I hardly think any one is bold enough to tackle such a problem just now, nor in the future until unheard of reforms can be introduced. For the present at all events it appears to me that her interests are entirely bound up in silver, as she can only hope in the end to pay for her imports and indebtedness by her exports, and with cheap silver these last are placed in a position of unique advantage *vis-à-vis* those of the gold-using countries of the world. There can be no doubt that the present low price of silver will stimulate the export trade of China (although that may be a plant of slower growth than we should like to see) and as a consequence China must absorb more and more of white metal; and same should at least have a steady effect on our exchange. The Straits Settlements may decide to adopt gold, but I submit that their position as a country with steady and valuable exports is so different from that of our small island with absolutely no production of our own to speak of that we cannot possibly follow unless the lead is taken by China, of which country, for all practical purposes, we are simply the principal southern port. Currency questions are usually considered to be work for experts, but I think there can be little doubt that these would all, for once, have no difficulty in agreeing to this, *vis-à-vis*, that Hongkong is in no position to dream of a standard for herself apart from China. I have endeavoured in the foregoing to give some of my views, but am ready to avow that the subject is one which calls for much more insight and special knowledge than I possess, and is one about which even experts of the first rank might possibly be found to differ, so I am quite prepared to find much diversity of opinion

on the part of the general body of our members, as well as among the public generally in spite of the conclusions we may arrive at round this Committee table. I shall be glad to listen to any views on this subject which you, gentlemen, may choose to express. I must add that Mr. Shewan has written a letter to the Secretary regretting his inability to attend the meeting to-day, but has been good enough to write down his views on this subject, which are as follows:—

"I am in favour of a gold currency for all countries except for Hongkong until China adopts either a gold currency or a gold standard. If we adopted a gold currency in Hongkong, the exchange banks would be driven to open branches and do their business in Canton, and with the departure of bank business, other business would follow, and the result would be that the trade and industries of Hongkong would suffer a severe blow. The prosperity of this Colony has been built upon very slight foundations, and I do not think we should be wise in running any risk of hurting it."

"Whatever Singapore may decide to do is no criterion for Hongkong. The conditions there are different from those here. They chiefly depend upon countries using a gold standard, but we upon a country using silver exclusively."

"I fully sympathise with those people of moderate means who particularly feel the pressure of increased cost of living. This, however, will only be temporary, wages out here have risen and will continue to rise as the sterling value of the dollar falls, and if a man receives for his dollar less to remit home than he did before, he will, on the other hand, have more dollars with which to buy his remittance, so the thing remains as broad as it is long. At the sterling value of silver falls, say, I think, will the cost in dollars of labour and commodities and though in a lesser degree perhaps, of land and other property, rise. These conditions will thus continue to adjust themselves until the limit, which cannot be very far off now, is reached."

The VICE-CHAIRMAN.—As Mr. Smith was not present at the last meeting when the subject was under discussion, I suggest that he might give the Committee his opinions regarding same from a banker's point of view.

Mr. SMITH.—Speaking generally, I am in accord with the views just expressed by the Chairman, whose remarks appeared to me to cover most of the ground. Looking at the question more particularly from an exchange and financial standpoint it must not be forgotten that a large portion of the internal trade between North and South China is financed through Hongkong, and that practically the whole of the great trade of Canton and South China with other countries is at present centred here; the possession and retention of which is of vital importance. Currency flows to and from Canton freely according to the movements of trade and the state of the money markets, and I am strongly of opinion that the adoption of a monetary standard in Hongkong different from that of China would not benefit this Colony as a great commercial centre, but would inevitably result in that all important trade gradually leaving Hongkong.

Mr. WILCOX asked how many millions of dollars would be let loose in this Colony if the Straits Settlements started a gold currency.

Mr. SMITH replied that he was not in a position at the moment to give an accurate estimate; he did not know how they would be dealt with there.

The CHAIRMAN put the question whether the Committee wished to depart from the attitude of the Chamber expressed in the letter to the Singapore Chamber in 1897.

The VICE-CHAIRMAN.—When the matter was discussed at the last Committee Meeting it was agreed that nothing had arisen to alter the position then taken up and that this special meeting has been called to give the absent members a chance to discuss the matter and to decide whether it was advisable to get the opinion of the whole of the Chamber in general meeting, and also, in the event of a general meeting being called, whether the Committee should express their views on the subject for the consideration of the members as a whole.

Hon. C. W. DICKSON.—My views are that

the existence of Hongkong is not essential to China and if Hongkong went "Gold" the Colony would be left as far as trade with China is concerned.

The CHAIRMAN put the question again before the meeting and it was unanimously decided to adhere strongly to the opinions expressed in the letter to the Singapore Chamber, on the 4th of September, 1897.

Mr. WILCOX.—I think you are making a great mistake in deciding not to refer the matter to the members of the Chamber. It should be borne in mind that this question of the currency is the question of the hour, one in which the whole community take the deepest interest, for all are more or less affected by it. I am strongly of opinion that a general meeting of the members of the Chamber should be called to discuss the letter before us, and to afford them an opportunity of expressing their views on the subject. The question is, I would remind you, of equal importance to the members as to the Committee, and I know that many members entertain very pronounced views on this problem.

The CHAIRMAN.—To my idea the chief objection to the Committee calling a general meeting of members is that in all probability no one will come forward with any well thought out scheme or proposals and that the meeting will only result in some general desultory discussion, which would not only not tend to further matters but would probably be productive of harm and might create a bad impression.

Some discussion followed and it was eventually decided not to call a special general meeting unless one was requisitioned by five members under Rule XIII.

On the proposition of Mr. NEWETT, seconded by Mr. WILCOX, and carried unanimously, it was resolved to publish the proceedings and forward a copy to each member.

This concluded the business.

S. GEO. G.'S BALL.

The S. George's Ball took place on the 6th inst. in the City Hall and passed off with great éclat and success. When the proposal to hold a S. George's Ball was first mooted some two or three months ago, it seemed as though it were going to hang fire, but thanks to the energy displayed by its promoters, and especially by Mr. E. W. Mitchell, the scheme was pursued to a fruitful conclusion, and last night's function ranks as one of the season's leading events in the Colony. The company present numbered nearly 500 couples, so that the City Hall rooms were comfortably filled without dancing being made impossible. Decorations were carried out on a lavish scale and with chaste effect, the good results in this direction being chiefly to the credit of Mr. George A. Caldwell and his committee. The arrangement of the City Hall lends itself, it might be said, to one style of adornment only, so that anyone setting upon the decoration of them has some difficulty in getting away from the stereotyped fashion. But that the Decoration Committee succeeded in rising superior to this disadvantage all who saw the halls last evening will admit. When the dancing was at its height the ensemble of the scene was superb, the dazzling lights, the gay decorations, the brilliant dresses of the ladies and the uniforms of the Service men making up a glowing picture to which the sombre garb of the civilians lent the necessary touch of relief.

Upon entering the vestibule of the Hall from Queen's Road one was confronted with an attractive spectacle. The vestibule itself, the pillars and the grand staircase were covered with rich tropical plants and foliage, set off with sparkling lights. At the top of the stairway was displayed a huge pictorial representation of S. George and the Dragon, framed in electric lamps; and below was placed a circular emblem bearing on a blue border the legend "Honi soit qui mal y pense," and in the centre a red S. George's Cross on a white ground. Left and right the walls were clad in greenery; flanking the Dragon picture were hung two S. George's Banners, and above the Royal Standard. The face of the stairwell opposite bore the Royal Arms with trophies of bannerettes. Curtains and bunting decked the

staircase proper. The Chamber of Commerce and the room adjoining were utilised as reception and sitting rooms and there also at the rear was a buffet. In the S. George's Hall the portrait of Queen Victoria was dominated by a brilliantly illuminated shield, bearing a design of the S. George's Cross picked out in red lamps and decked with bannerettes. All round this Hall and S. Andrew's Hall little oblong boxes were placed so as to enclose the pillars jutting out from the wall; and these were cleverly designed to look like part of the walls and were each filled with ferns and verdant plants. At the opposite end of the Hall from the Queen's portrait were fixed the Royal Arms draped with colours. Another pretty effect was produced by having on each of the gas globes a miniature S. George's Cross. The band-stand was arranged in a manner that was both novel and pleasing to the eye. Its general design was that of a rustic porch with open trellis-work intertwined with creeping plants. The whole was effectively lighted in colours and had a charming appearance. In S. Andrew's Hall, the scheme of decorations was on parallel lines. Below the portrait of H.R.H. the Duke of Edinburgh was massed a lot of rich tropical growth; above the portrait a shield carrying the S. George's Cross with "E.R.I." in emblazoned letters, flanked by trophyed bannerettes. On the wall at the opposite end of the Hall a centre-piece was found in a pictorial shield illustrative of the legend of the Saint and the Dragon, this also being set off with trophies of little flags. The balconies in front were arranged as lounges and smoking rooms, tastefully hung with banners of all colours and designs.

As is customary on such occasions, the theatre was utilised as the supper room. Here also the decorations did ample credit to the good taste of Mr. Caldwell and his committee. On the stage was the President's table, shaped like a horse-shoe and providing accommodation for a company of twenty; at the back a sylvan scene set off with palms and ferns. In the area and balcony of the Theatre the supper tables were set in rows; also in the balcony at the rear there were card-tables and lounges. The front of the dress circle was gaily decked with trophies of bannerettes, festoons of greenery and tropical plants, and the Royal Arms as a centre-piece; while the pillars rising above were also suitably set off. Dressing rooms, etc., were provided at convenient points, and the comfort of the dancers was looked after with every care.

Before 9 o'clock had passed the guests began to arrive, and soon the strains of the band sounded invitingly from the ball room. The coming of the Government House party was the signal for the commencement of the night's festivity. When His Excellency the Governor with Lady Blake, Captain Arbuthnot, A.D.C., and Sir John Keane, Private Secretary, arrived, they were met at the entrance by the President of the Ball, Sir William M. Goodman, and conducted to the reception rooms. After a little the President led the way to S. George's Hall and sets were formed for the opening quadrille. Music of an excellent kind was discoursed by the band of H.M.S. Ocean under the conductanship of Mr. G. Portoghesi, and soon the dancers were "tripping the light fantastic toe" to a melody of old English airs. Those invited to take part in the President's set were Sir Henry Blake and Lady Goodman, Sir William Goodman and Lady Blake, Admiral Grenfell and Lady Gascoigne, General Sir William G. Scott and Mrs. Robinson, Hon. F. H. May and Mrs. Wise, Commodore Robins and Mrs. May, Sir Henry Berkeley and Mr. Robertson, Mr. W. H. Robertson and Mrs. Hancock.

The full dance programme is appended:—

1. Quadrille	Old English Airs
2. Valse	Sourire d'Avril
3. Valse	Ballscenen
4. Polka	Whistling Polka
5. Valse	blue Danube
6. Lancers	Floradora
7. Valse	La Gitana
8. Barn Dance	The Beauty of the Dance
9. Valse	Whisper and I shall hear
10. Valse (2 step)	Iola

SUPPER DANCES.

Valse	Morgenblatter
Valse	L'Amour et la Vie à Vienne
Valse	Eldorado

11. Valse Tausend une eine Nacht
 12. Lancers San Toy
 13. Valse (2 step) Washington Post
 14. Valse Loch Lomond
 15. Roger de Coverley Sir Roger
 16. Valse Schatz
 17. Valse Yours Sincerely
 18. { Valse and Louisiana Lou
 18. { Galop Post Horn

Dancing was kept up with great spirit until after 11 o'clock, when an adjournment was made to the supper room. Here an excellent repast was served, purveyed by Ying Kee. Those invited to the President's table were H.E. the Governor and Lady Goodman, Sir William Goodman and Lady Blake, Admiral Grenfell and Lady Gascoigne, Sir Wm. J. Gascoigne, K.C.M.G., and Mrs. Robinson, Commodore Robinson, A.D.C., and Mrs May, Hon F. H. May and Mrs. Wise, Sir Henry Berkeley and Mrs. Evans, Hon. R. Murray Rumsey and Mrs. Robertson, Sir Paul Chater, C.M.G., and Mrs. Johnson, His Honour Mr. Justice Wise and Mrs. Wally.

The menu was as follows:—

HORS D'OEUVRES.	
Lobster Mayonnaise.	Chicken Mayonnaise.
Ham Sandwiches.	Beef Sandwiches.
Caviare Sandwiches.	Sardine Sandwiches.
Prawns in Aspic.	
Galantine of Capon.	Galantine of Turkey.
JOINTS.	
Pâté de Foie Gras in Aspic.	
Baron of Beef.	Roast Saddle of Mutton.
	Roast Turkey and Ham.
Boiled Shanghai Corned Beef.	
GAME.	
Grouse Pie.	Boar's Head.
Roast Wild Duck.	Roast Pheasant.
Assorted Salads.	
PASTRY.	
Blaic Mange.	Almond Macaroons.
Mince Pies.	Assorted Cakes.
DESSERT.	
Vanilla Ice Cream.	Assorted Jellies.
Maraschino Jelly.	Strawberry Ice Cream.
BON-BONS.	
Tea.	Coffee.
Cocoa.	

By kind permission of the Colonel and Officers, the band of the Sherwood Foresters (under the conductorship of Mr. E. J. Bradley) played the following selections during supper:—

"Roast Beef of Old England"
 Fantasia ... "Gems of England," ... Basquin Sheperds' Dance "Henry VII," ... Ed. German Selection ... "Haddon Hall," ... Sullivan Valse ... "Eton Boating Song," ... Kaps Selection ... "Welsh Airs," ... Godfrey Serenade ... "The Warblers," ... Perry Selection ... "Patience," ... Sullivan Valse ... "English Beauties," ... Crowe

Dancing was afterwards resumed and continued up till an early hour this morning.

The office-bearers were as follows:—

President, Sir William M. Goodman.

Hon. Secretary, Mr. E. W. Mitchell.

Decorations Committee—Commodore C. G. Robinson (chairman), Hon. R. Murray Rumsey, Surgeon Norris, R.N., Lieut. Quennell, A.O.D., Messrs. Caldwell, Tutter, Ram, Dixon, Wickham, and Edwards.

Invitation Committee—Dr. Atkinson, Messrs. Hart Buck, H. E. Pollock, Saunders, W. Danby, Major Pritchard R.A., and Mr. P. P. J. Wodehouse (hon. secretary).

Supper and Wines Committee—Messrs. Layton, Lewis, Nicolie, Hazelton, Medhurst, Vernon, and Grace.

Dance Committee—Messrs. A. G. Stokes, S. Hancock, H. P. White, H. W. Bird, and E. Ormiston.

Cloak Rooms Committee—Messrs. Hanlon, Wodehouse, Wickham and Japp.

Smoking Room and Bar Committee—Major Chapman and Mr. F. Browne.

Card Rooms Committee—Messrs. Wilkinson and Hunter.

Stewards—Sir William Goodman (President), Dr. Atkinson, Mr. F. J. Badeley, Mr. J. Barton, Sir Henry Berkeley, Mr. E. Bowdler, Mr. F. T. Bowley, Mr. H. W. Bird, Mr. F. Browne, Mr. Hart Buck, Capt. Bullen, R.A., Major H. H. Brown, R.A.M.C., Major Baker, Brown, R.E., Mr. G. A. Caldwell, Major A. Chapman, H.K.V.C., Hon. Francis Clark, Major S. F. Clark, R.A.M.C., Mr. J. H. Cox, Mr. W. Danby, Mr. V. H. Deacon, Mr. H. L. Dennys, Mr. W. Dixon, Mr. F. W. Edwards, H.E., Major-General Sir W. J. Gascoigne, K.C.M.G.,

R.-Ad. H. T. Grenfell, R.N., C.M.G., Mr. C. H. Grace, Mr. A. Hancock, Mr. S. Hancock, Mr. F. Hazelton, B. E. Hanson, Mr. E. A. Hewitt, Mr. E. Jones Hughes, Mr. A. S. Hooper, Mr. H. R. Hunter, Lieut. Heath, 10th B.L. Inf., Mr. J. A. Jupp, Capt. T. H. M. Jerram, R.N., Mr. B. Layton, Mr. R. K. Leigh, Mr. J. H. Lewis, Mr. C. W. May, Mr. G. H. Medhurst, Mr. G. Moxon, H. C. Nicolle, Surg. Leigh Norris, R.N., Mr. F. Ormiston, Mr. Owen Ordish, Mr. H. E. Pollock, K.C., Major Pritchard, R.A., Mr. W. Poate, Mr. W. H. Percival, Mr. W. H. Potts, Mr. T. Morgan Phillips, Commodore C. G. Robinson, R.N., D.C.A. Hon. R. Murray Rumsey, R.N., Mr. E. A. Ram, Mr. E. W. Rutter, Mr. Bruce Shepherd, Mr. A. G. Stokes, Dr. F. O. Stedman, Mr. M. W. Slade, Mr. E. H. Sharp, K.C., Mr. W. J. Saunders, Mr. A. H. Skelton, Mr. G. L. Tomlin, Mr. C. H. Thompson, Mr. H. E. Tomkins, Mr. W. J. Tucher, Mr. J. Y. Vernon Vernon, His Hon. Mr. Justice Wise, Mr. C. D. Wilkinson, Dr. Bateson Wright, Mr. W. H. Wickham, Mr. H. P. White, Mr. E. W. Mitchell (Hon. Secretary), and Mr. P. J. Wodehouse (Hon. Sec. Inv. Committee).

NEW YEAR FESTIVITIES IN HONGKONG.

The advent of the New Year was celebrated in the customary seasonable manner in Hongkong. There was a general cessation of work early on the afternoon of Wednesday, the last day of 1902. The principal event on New Year's Eve was of course the Dock Hall, which was again a great success. At the Ball the striking of the midnight hour was the signal for the singing of the time-honoured song, "Auld Lang Syne," by the company assembled in the supper-room. Both in Hongkong and Kowloon there was also much cracker-firing and pyrotechnics. Near the Clock Tower there was a great display, and much diversion was provided for a large crowd of Europeans and Chinese by the spectacle of some half-dozen "blades" riding in rickshas repeatedly round the venerable obstruction, to the tune of "Auld Lang Syne." They seemed resolved to make the most of the Tower while it stands on its present site. For some time after midnight Queen's Road rang with the vocal efforts of returning roysterers. On New Year's Day the Sports at Taikoo attracted many hundreds of spectators. There were also a cricket match between the H.K.C.C. and the Navy, and a Rugby match between the H.K.F.C. "A" team and H.M.S. Talbot.

KOWLOON DOCK BALL.

The annual dance given by the staff of the Hongkong and Whampoa Dock Company took place at Kowloon Docks on the 31st ult., "Hogmanay," and was attended with the success that always marks this recurring function, than which there is none more enjoyable in the social life of the Colony. Dancing took place in the drawing loft, the great size of which made it eminently suitable for the purpose, and in the adjoining library and reading-room supper was afterwards served. In both places the decorative art had been studied to the best advantage, and the blending of light and colour was harmonious to a degree. At the top of the ball-room an illuminated design of the Dock Company's flag was picked out in small coloured electric lamps, and in the supper-room the figures 1902, changing into 1903 when the last moment of the old year had gone, were displayed. Dancing commenced about nine o'clock, the music being supplied by the excellent band of the Sherwood Foresters and by Piper J. E. Sinclair, who played a schottische. About 130 couples occupied the polished floor, and they entered with spirit into the gaiety of the evening.

Supper was served about half-past eleven, and was being partaken of when the boom of a gun and the hooting of ships' sirens told that another year had commenced. Mutual good wishes were then exchanged and "Auld Lang Syne" was sung. Mr. W. B. Dixon, the chief manager, who presided, proposed the toast of "The King," and wished all present a happy new year. The toast of "Success to the Hong-

kong and Whampoa Dock Company," which was joined with the name of Mr. Dixon, was responded to with musical honours, and replied to briefly by Mr. Dixon, whose remarks were reminiscent of the events of the past year and contained sympathetic references to the deaths of Mr. D. Gillies and Mr. A. Harvey. Mr. Gillies, he said, was a man of no ordinary ability—a man of strong individuality and purpose and possessing all the characteristics that go to the gaining of success in life. Mr. Harvey, one of the Dock Company's oldest foremen, was a typical specimen of the kind of man Bonnie Scotland sent forth, and had left an ineffaceable mark of his value in the perfection to which the native staff under him had attained. Mr. Dixon concluded by wishing all present prosperity and all good luck throughout the coming year. Other toasts were—"The Ladies," "Mr. Dixon and Mrs. Dixon," and "The Visitors."

The various committees—to the members of which every credit is due for their attention to arrangements falling under their care, arrangements which lacked nothing in their completeness—were composed as follows:—

Committee.—Messrs. W. Wilson (Hon. President), J. Logan, A. Ewing, S. Wilson, J. Parkes, J. J. Sibbett, J. M. Henderson, W. M. Deas, T. Neave, and W. Stewart (Hon. Secretary).

Dance Committee.—Messrs. J. J. Sibbett and J. M. Henderson.

Refreshments Committee.—Messrs. T. Neave, W. M. Deas, and Hon. Secretary.

Decorations Committee.—Messrs. J. Logan, J. Parkes, S. Wilson, A. Ewing, and the Hon. Secretary.

Appended is the dance programme:—

Waltz	Highland Schottische
Lancers	Caledonians
Schottische	Barn Dance
Barn Dance	Lancers
Caledonians	Waltz
Waltz	Quadrille
Quadrille	Barn Dance
Barn Dance	Caledonians
Waltz	Waltz
Lancers	Sir Rodger de Coverley

A VISIT TO HANOI.

The following are some impressions of a recent visit to Hanoi:—

"The Exhibition, during the last few days, has passed entirely into the background, overshadowed by the Congress of Orientalists. Official delegates and savants of many countries, from Norway to Japan, have congregated in this quiet but progressive city to discuss important scientific questions concerning especially the Far East. Arrangements had been so well timed that the delegates coming from Europe via Suez and Saigon, and those from China and Japan via Hongkong, arrived within a day or two of each other and all were able to be present, on the 4th December, at the solemn inauguration. Governor-General Bean opened the Congress with a speech, which was answered by delegates from different countries selected for the purpose. Work commenced the same afternoon at 2 p.m. and continued steadily every day from 8 a.m. to 5 or 6 p.m. with only an interval for tiffin. The Congress was formally closed on the afternoon of the 8th December, after passing several important resolutions, amongst which, one stating its own official designation to be 'Premier Congrès International des Etudes d'Extrême-Orient,' a title which promises a new series of Oriental Congresses especially adapted for those who study the Far East.

"To give the savants some relaxation from their arduous labours, excursions and entertainments were arranged. M. Finot, the Director of 'L'Ecole Francaise de l'Extrême-Orient,' who was named President of the Congress, gave a dinner (40 persons) in honour of its members on the 8th December, when a polyglot series of toasts was pronounced, including the principal languages of the old continent, from Norway to Siam, and from Japan to Madagascar. There was a pleasant excursion to Phu-tu-son on 7th December (Sunday) and the Governor-General gave a dinner to 53 persons on 8th December. The following days, 9th and 10th December, were taken up by an excursion by railway to the Porte de Chine (Nan Kuan), to the terminus of the French line at the frontier boundary-stone. The Orientalists were hospitably entertained by

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the French garrison at Langson, where Commandant Delmotte and the officers had prepared a dinner to 100 persons for their reception. The hospitality shown individually by all these officials was on a par with that of the Government, which, as is well known, offered free passages from any part of the world and free lodging to all official delegates of Governments and Institutions.

"What rendered the first Oriental Congress still more interesting was the presence of members associated with the early (though not very remote) history of French colonisation in Tonkin. There was the striking figure of Jean Dupuis, the pioneer in the heroic period; there was the nephew of Francis Garnier who gave his life for this now flourishing French Colony; and there was the Italian Consul-General of Hongkong, Cav. Volpicelli, whose advent in Tonkin, in 1885, had put an end to the war, and had inaugurated the era of pacification. At all the fêtes, enthusiastic toasts to Jean Dupuis were made and his heroic exploits remembered. The grey-headed pioneer was much touched by the universal remembrance of his past actions. His modesty is equal to his former daring and enterprise, and it was evident he was surprised at the general admiration for deeds which to him had come quite naturally.

"A happy coincidence closed the Congress of Orientalists on the 8th December, the 73rd birthday of Jean Dupuis, and the occasion was celebrated by some of the old residents of Hanoi by the presentation, in the Hanoi Hotel, of a work of art to the venerable pioneer, whose name, as was aptly remarked, was the first French one heard on the banks of the Red River."

A BRAVE CONSTABLE.

A parade was held at the Central Police Station on the 5th inst. in connection with the presentation by H.E. the Governor, Sir H. A. Blake, G.C.M.G., of the Royal Humane Society's medal and the Belilius star (the latter carrying with it a donation of \$25) to P.C. Counsell, who, at the risk of his own life, saved five Chinese from drowning during the typhoon on the 18th July last. Their junk had been battered to pieces against masses of floating wreckage, and the people were clinging to the sinking boat, in imminent peril of going down with it. When P.C. Counsell, carrying with him a buoy and life-line, went to their assistance and saved all five. The parade was under command of Mr. F. J. Badeley, Captain Superintendent of Police, and the ceremony, which included the presentation of the S. John's Ambulance Society's certificate to seven members of the Force, was witnessed by Lady Blake, Mrs. F. J. Badeley, Hon. F. H. May, C.M.G., Commandant Pritchard, H.K.V.C., and Captain Arbuthnot, A.D.C.

Addressing P.C. Counsell, HIS EXCELLENCE said—Constable Counsell, I have come here to-day to perform a very pleasing duty indeed, and that is to present you with two medals which you have most richly earned. On 18th July last, during a typhoon, you were on duty in Yaumati with a Chinese constable. A typhoon was blowing, and anybody who has seen a typhoon in this harbour knows what a scene of destruction there is at the Praya wall. You saw a junk being destroyed and the occupants flung into the water, and you determined to save them if you possibly could. You sent the Chinese constable for assistance, but you did not wait for his return, and you yourself, having got a rope, ventured upon that seething mass of wreckage, and, alone and unaided, you saved five people who would otherwise have perished. Now, there are several kinds of courage. There is the courage that carries men forward in the attack and the steadfast courage of resistance. The bravery that carries men to the front in the rush and swirl and excitement of the fight is a bravery that is common to all persons, and there are very few cases where men have been found deliberately flinching. But there is a still higher form of courage, and that is the courage in which a man is prepared to sacrifice his life, if it be necessary, to preserve the lives of his fellow-creatures. You, Constable Counsell, have given a bright example of that courage, which was recognised by H.E. Major-

General Giscombe when the case came before him, and he forwarded your name to England, to the great central body of the Royal Humane Society, with a recommendation that you should be awarded the medal of the Society, which is never given except in exceptional instances, where men have risked their lives for the purpose of securing the safety of others. The local Society, the Belilius Society, have also awarded you the Belilius star. It is a great pleasure to me, on this occasion, to pin upon your breast this medal of the Royal Humane Society, that will always be a reminder to you of the brave deed you have done, and, I hope, be an incentive to the other men here to perform their duty likewise if the occasion should ever occur.

HIS EXCELLENCE then pinned the medal on Constable Counsell's right breast, and, shaking hands with him, said—I most heartily wish you long life to wear it.

After receiving the Belilius star and the \$25 accompanying the decoration, Constable Counsell saluted and returned to his place in the ranks.

The following members of the Force were then presented by His Excellency with the certificate of the S. John's Ambulance Society:—Sergeant Garrod, Lance-Sergeant Brown, Lance-Sergeant Adlington, P. C. Pitt, P. C. Reid, P.C. Davis, and P.C. Caygile.

Addressing the parade, HIS EXCELLENCE continued—With reference to these certificates of the S. John's Ambulance Society, I wish to extend the scope of the Society in Hongkong, especially amongst the police. I hope we shall be able to spread the Society in the Colony; it is one of the most admirable and most useful societies at present existing, and its object the most praiseworthy—that of giving first-aid to the wounded. I may tell you that of all the men who served in the South African war, none gave better and greater service, or more valuable, than the men of the S. John's Ambulance Society, two thousand of whom were sent out by the Society to South Africa. I myself was present when the medal for the war was awarded to a number of these men by His Majesty the King, and I was also present at the opening of the Memorial in S. John's Church by H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, in memory of those who fell during the war. I earnestly advise the men of the Police Force, both Europeans and, if we can induce them, Indians and Chinese, to go through this course, and I intend to try to obtain the adhesion of a large number of people outside the Force. I may tell you that in England not only are the members of the Police Force so trained, but almost every man in the employ of the great railway companies has gone through the training. The consequence is that when an accident occurs there is hardly an instance that one or two men who know exactly what to do fail to come forward to the assistance of the injured. I was present at the competition for the shield given by the railway companies every year, and a most interesting competition it was. The men, six or eight to a squad, were formed up, and some boys, each bearing on a card on his back a description of the injury he was supposed to be suffering from, were placed before them. Every man then took possession of his patient for the time being, saw the injury he was supposed to be suffering from, and there and then proceeded to treat him, under the supervision of a medical doctor. The shield was awarded to the best team. I should like to have an annual competition of this kind here, for it gives a great interest to the work and assists in perfecting the training. In the case of an accident the first ten or fifteen minutes might make the difference of life and death, especially here, in this harbour, in connection with the apparently drowned, where, if the proper course has been taken, it means, as I say, very often the difference between life and death. I therefore hope that all the Europeans in the Force, and, if possible, as many of the other men as can be made to understand, will go through this course. I hear that Dr. Bell has been kind enough to go through it with the men up to the present, and I think there will be no difficulty in securing the assistance of the other medical men of the Colony, because in a matter of this kind I find that the medical men are always ready to come forward. I commend

this to the Force, and congratulate those men who have now got their certificates, and I hope it will be my pleasant duty before long to distribute more certificates for efficiency amongst the men of the Hongkong Police Force.

This concluded His Excellency's remarks, and the parade was shortly afterwards dismissed.

INDIAN CONSTABLE RUNS AMUCK.

The turning out of the patrol at Hung-hom Police Station at ten o'clock on the 7th inst. was marked by a tragic occurrence. Three Indians under a sergeant of the same nationality formed the patrol, which had no sooner started out than one of the constables, drawing his revolver, fired at and wounded a comrade in the lower part of the body; another shot embedded itself in the butt of the man's carbine, which the would-be murderer seized and disappeared on the hillside amongst the bushes. Nothing was heard or seen of him for a little, but he had evidently worked his way round the hillside in the direction of the station, for from a spot above it shots began to come. This sniping was continued at intervals, fortunately without casualty, and then the party of police who were stalking him succeeded in surrounding the madman, whom they tried to induce to surrender. The reply to this was a shout that he was going to kill himself, and following it came two more shots, then silence. On approaching the spot the surrounding party found the man dead, with two bullet wounds in the abdomen. Enquiries showed that the dead man and the Indian whom he first fired at had had a quarrel earlier in the evening, and he revenged himself in the tragic manner indicated. The wounded man is not dangerously hurt.

DEATH OF A HONGKONG BARRISTER.

The legal profession of the Colony has lost an able member in the person of Mr. Francis Oswald Edlin, barrister-at-law, who died at the Peak Hospital on Friday, 2nd inst., at noon, and was buried in the Happy Valley on Saturday afternoon. The circumstances attending Mr. Edlin's death are peculiarly sad. Coming to Hongkong with a fine record of service in other parts of the Empire, he was regarded as a welcome acquisition to the circle of advocates practising here, and admitted to the Bar on Saturday, 15th ult., the Attorney-General, Sir Henry S. Berkeley, introducing him to the Chief Justice, Sir W. Meigh Goodman. On the same day he went to the Peak Hospital suffering from abscess of the liver, and succumbed to the disease on Friday, after undergoing an operation. The funeral cortege, which passed the Monument, was a large one, and included Sir W. Meigh Goodman, Sir Henry S. Berkeley, Hon. Dr. Ho Kai, Hon. Murray Rumsey, and Messrs. J. W. Norton Kyshe, A. Seth, H. H. Gompertz, Morgan Philips, E. H. Sharp, C. A. D. Melbourne, N. Ferrers, and D. Law.

The deceased gentleman was the son of Sir Peter Edlin, for many years Chief Magistrate at the Old Bailey, in London, and was admitted a solicitor of the Supreme Court of Judicature in March, 1882, being called to the Bar, Middle Temple, in 1890. Going abroad, he held the appointment of Queen's Advocate of Lagos and Attorney-General of Fiji. For eight months he was Acting Chief Justice of Lagos and subsequently, shortly after his arrival in Fiji, acted as Chief Justice. During the time Mr. Edlin was in Lagos he was appointed by Sir Henry McCallum, K.C.M.G. (the present Governor of Natal), Chairman of a Commission to enquire into the trade of the Colony, and on one occasion he administered the Government of Lagos as Deputy for the Governor. Mr. Edlin also held the appointment of District Commissioner of the Gold Coast and was Crown Prosecutor on two occasions and Acting Puisne Judge.

Mrs Buck, widow of the late U.S. Minister to Japan, returned to the States in the P.M. s.s. Korea, taking the remains of her husband with her.

THE LATE INSPECTOR HOOD.

The European members of the staff of the Sanitary Board assembled in the Board Room on the 2nd inst. to do honour to one of their colleagues who, with his wife and family, is leaving for England on the 7th inst. after eleven years spent in the Colony first as a policeman and latterly as an inspector on the staff of which the Hon. Dr. Clark is the head. Inspector J. Hood was the recipient of yesterday's favours, which, in addition to the good wishes for the future prosperity of himself and his family, took the tangible form of a presentation of silver table-ware—tea service, serviette rings, cake basket, and salt cellars—a handsome collection as they lay spread out to view on the table in the office of the Sanitary Board.

The Hon. Dr. CLARK handed over the gifts, and in doing so made an appropriate little speech. He said—Mr. Hood, we have asked you to meet us here this afternoon in order that we may bid you and your wife God speed on your voyage home to Scotland, and that we may wish you both every happiness and prosperity in the years that lie before you. You have been in the service of this Government for the past eleven years, seven of which were spent with the Police and four with us, and during that time you have made many friends, and, as we believe, no enemies. It is no easy matter, as we all know, for officers of either of these services to avoid making enemies in the course of our official duties, but we are agreed that in this respect you have succeeded, where others perhaps may have failed, and we are sincerely sorry that ill-health should have compelled you to leave us for good. We do not mean, however, that you go away empty handed, and I am desired to ask your acceptance, in the name of every officer of our staff, of this small service of silver plate, which will, I trust, in the days that are to come, serve to remind you of the many good friends that you have left behind in Hongkong. One of our bachelors reminds me that a part of the service is intended for you and a part for your wife and that they have been inscribed accordingly, but I am quite sure that, as a married man, you will well understand that it is all meant for you, and I am even more sure that your wife will understand that it is all meant for her. (Laughter and applause.) May you both live long to enjoy the use of this small token of our esteem and goodwill.

Inspector HOOD, who had been invalided on pension, replied in fitting terms, and so the interesting ceremony came to a close.—*Daily Press*, 3rd January.

We regret very much having to chronicle the death of Inspector J. Hood, a retiring member of the Sanitary Board staff, who on Friday last was made the recipient of a handsome set of silverware from his fellow-officers on the occasion of his leaving the service, invalided, on pension at 35' yesterday morning, aged 29 years, at the residence of Mr. Barrington, Public Works Department, and in the afternoon was buried in the Happy Valley. The funeral was attended by a large number of the Sanitary Board staff and of the members of the Police Force. Hon. Dr. Clark was among the mourners. Many wreaths were placed on the grave. Much sympathy is felt for Mrs. Hood and her child. The family were to have sailed in the *König Albert* yesterday for England.—*Daily Press*, 8th January.

At eight o'clock on Friday morning, the 27th ult., the *Shanghai Mercury* reports, the French troops struck camp and marched to the French Consulate, where they lined up in front and Lieutenant-Colonel Duguet saluted the French tricolour, which floated at the masthead of the flagstaff in the French Consulate Grounds, in token of good-bye. The command was then given to form up in marching order, eight deep and, headed by the band of the 1st East Asiatic German Regiment, they proceeded as far as the Astor House where the band fell out into Sander's Compound and played the departing regiment past. Arrived at the Hongkew wharf the troops at once went on board the waiting transport. The officers received a large number of friends on board the *Admiral Exelmans* who came to see them off, from 8.30 to 9 a.m. Soon after this hour the vessel cast off and proceeded on her voyage to Indo-China.

SUICIDE OF MR. LEHMANN.

Mr. H. Lehmann, the head of Messrs. Arnhold, Karberg & Co. at Shanghai was, as we have already been informed by telegram, found lying on his bed on the morning of the 31st ult. by his boy with a revolver bullet through his head and a revolver grasped in his right hand. He was quite dead, the bullet having entered the right temple traversed through the skull coming out the left temple, after which it struck the wall of the bed-room, flattened and rebounded to the middle of the floor, where the police afterwards picked it up. All this occurred at Mr. Lehmann's residence, No. 112, Bubbling Well Road. The *Mercury* adds the following details:—Deceased had retired to rest in his usual good health last night, and, according to custom, his boy had gone in to call him just before daylight to-day in order that he might be in time for his usual morning ride. On entering the room he found him lying dead as described. The boy at once called Mr. Lembke, who lives close by, and Mr. Lembke communicated with the Police in Carter Road where Detective Brown happened to be on duty. This officer immediately proceeded to deceased's house and took charge of the case. He found on deceased's dressing table a short memorandum, in German, from deceased to Mr. Lembke, but it is in no way in connection with this sad event. Dr. Paulun, who was called by the Police, was quickly in attendance and pronounced the opinion that death must have occurred somewhere about 3 a.m. Mr. Lehmann was frequently troubled with asthma, and it is supposed that he had an attack last night, for many ends of cigarettes such as he used to smoke when troubled with this complaint were found in the room. A post-mortem examination was held to-day at which it was concluded that probably deceased shot himself in a fit of temporary insanity.

It appears to be thought at Shanghai that the suicide on the 31st ult. of Mr. Lehmann, local head of Messrs. Arnhold, Karberg & Co., was prompted by desperation at the recurrence of his old malady, asthma. The New Year's celebration which was to be held at the Club Concordia on the night of the 1st inst. was postponed until the next Saturday on account of Mr. Lehmann's death.

KOWLOON BRITISH SCHOOL.**CHILDREN'S ENTERTAINMENT.**

A very charming entertainment was given in the Kowloon British School on the 3rd inst. at noon by a number of the scholars. Time works wonders in educational progress in the Colony, as in other matters, for the thoughts of not a few of the parents present at the little play must have reverted to the period only a short time back when they struggled alone in vain to maintain by limited mutual effort an institution which the education, moral and mental, of their children demanded. To the days of the peripatetic "mat-shed academy"—which, characteristic of many and more ambitious present day edifices, succumbed to a typhoon—when they struggled hard but unconvincingly to prove to the government that the education of the Anglo-Saxon children in the Colony was one of its primary duties. Few of those were sanguine enough to dream of Saturday's entertainment, when the scholars themselves would be "at home" to their parents, and entertain them in real traditional school-day form. Yet such was happily the case, and for the first time in its infantile existence the Kowloon British School was the scene of a most enjoyable entertainment which it is generally hoped will be the forerunner of many to come. The Committee of the old voluntary school in Kowloon (Messrs. T. H. Reid and Sayer) was connected very materially with the entertainment, for it closed its funds and its useful and spirited existence by contributing its cash balance to the purchase of a huge Christmas tree and loaded it with many gifts precious to the youngsters' hearts and appetites. At four o'clock the scholars, numbering sixty, sat down to "tea and cake" and evidenced their appreciation of their master's warning, given some days in advance, on the wisdom of mature preparation.

After tea, and having done justice to the appetising effect of the Kowloon air,

preparation was made for the play. A stage had been rigged up in the large room, with gas footlights, drop-scene, wings, and everything complete. Then followed the charming little piece, in which the children appeared in costume and sang their well-known nursery songs. The spectacle was very pretty, and the antics of the policeman, clown and pantaloons caused much merriment amongst the scholars in the audience. The "bill of the play" was as follows:—

GRAND CHRISTMAS PANTOMIME.**"BABY'S DREAM."**

Scene I.—Baby's Bedroom on Christmas Eve.

Scene II.—The Christmas Tree.

CHARACTERS:

Father Christmas, Santa Claus.....	Mr. Russell
The Fairy Queen Mab	Miss Stewart
Holly	Miss Ethel Parker
Ivy	Miss Jeanie Jack
Mistletoe	Miss Lily Logan
Jack Frost	Master James Jack
Dick Whittington	Master Willie Kerr
Cat	Master Bertie Sayer
Boy Blue	Master James McGlashan
Bo Peep	Miss Winnie Ward
Tom Tucker	Master Tom Logan
Jack Horner	Master Alec Kinross
Old Mother Hubbard	Miss Lily Neaves
Dog	Bouzeau
Clown	Master Willie Jack
Pantaloons	Master Angus Stewart
Policemen	Master Willie Lambert

ORCHESTRA.

Pianist

Violin

Flute

At the close Mrs. James, the head mistress, distributed the articles on the Christmas tree, and every scholar received a present. Mr. Irving, the Inspector of Schools—who is identifying himself so enthusiastically and thoroughly with the school work in the colony—then proposed a hearty vote of thanks to Mr. Jack, who was responsible for the play and the work connected with it, Mr. and Mrs. James, who had done so much for its success, and the ladies, gentlemen and children who had given the performance, and to the committee who had sent the Christmas tree. Mr. Irving pointed out that the school, which had not yet been open twelve months, had on its roll sixty scholars, and was thoroughly proving its existence. For the convenience of those children who came across the harbour they were trying to organise tiffin arrangements at the school, which he thought would be welcomed by the parents. They were doing all they could to make the institution a success, and he was sure it was being appreciated. (Hear, hear.) Mr. A. Cunningham seconded, and the vote was heartily accorded, the proceedings terminated with the National Anthem.

INFORMATION TO PARENTS.

The following letter, which speaks for itself, is now being circulated amongst European parents in the Colony, and as there may be many the circulars may not reach, the following is published for their information:—

Education Department,

Hongkong, 29th December, 1902.

DEAR SIR OR MADAM,—Although the newly established Kowloon School has attracted a considerable number of European children, it has not been used to its full capacity. This is a matter of regret, in view of the strong feelings generally expressed in favour of the opening of such a school, not a year ago.

I have been given to understand that one of the objections to a freer use of the school by parents on the Hongkong side is the difficulty of securing the safe conduct of young children across the ferry. It seems to me that this difficulty might be overcome by the school authorities arranging for a responsible person to meet a certain ferry in the morning, and to cross to the Hongkong side gain with the children in the afternoon.

To obviate the necessity of the children returning to lunch, arrangements might be made for giving the children a plain but substantial lunch at the school under proper supervision, at cost price. Whether it will be possible to do so will depend entirely upon the support which parents lend to the scheme.

The success of the school should be a matter of concern to every European in the Colony, and I therefore earnestly request all parents to fill up

the enclosed form and to return it to this office at an early date.—Yours faithfully,

EDWARD A. IRVING,

Inspector of Schools.

The forms to be filled in may be had on application.

HONGKONG CHURCH MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION.

ANNUAL MEETING.

The annual meeting of the Church Missionary Association was held on the 2nd inst. in S. Paul's College. There was a large attendance. His Honour Sir William M. Goodman, Chief Justice, presided.

The SECRETARY (Rev. F. T. Johnson) stated that the Association during the past year had had a peaceable time. There had been no committee meetings and no grant had been made. All the same he wished to strongly emphasise the fact that very good work had been going on all the time in the different departments. To Lady Goodman, Miss Goodman and Miss Anderson for their work in connection with their respective departments and to Major Benson for his services as treasurer they owed most hearty thanks. The brunt of the work, however, had fallen upon the editorial department, and they had to thank Rev. Mr. Bunbury, the editorial secretary for the extreme regularity with which the monthly magazine had appeared and also for his persuasive eloquence in inducing so many very hard-worked missionaries to spare the time to write accounts of their interesting work for the magazine. The financial state of affairs was that they had about \$187 in hand. They ought soon to be able to make one or two grants. (Applause.) In conclusion Mr. Johnson moved that the following committee be appointed for the ensuing year:—Mrs. Banister, Mrs. France, Lady Goodman, Mrs. Hoare, Mrs. Hipwell, Miss Johnstone, Miss Hamper, Miss Anderson, Miss Goodman, Major Benson, Sir William Goodman, Messrs. J. M. Beck, A. Bryer, W. E. Hipwell and G. Piercy; Bishop of Victoria president, and all clergymen who join the Association *ex officio* members.

The Ven. Archdeacon W. BANISTER seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

The CHAIRMAN, in his presidential remarks, stated that when he was asked to take the chair at that meeting he had a little diffidence in consenting, because he would be there knowing so little of the Association's work among those who knew so much, and whose knowledge was so much more personal and practical than his. But he reflected that he would not have been asked if he had not been wanted. There might be differences of opinion perhaps as to the times and places in China selected for missionary work and as to the qualifications and previous training of those who were sent out to do mission work there, but he thought there could be no difference of opinion among those who really believed in Christianity that mission work was just as necessary now as it was in the days, he might say, of S. Paul. It was absolutely essential for a living Church to have missionary enterprise. We could not all be missionaries, but we could all admire the self-denial and in some cases, he did not scruple to say, heroism of those who devoted the whole of their lives and energy to the propagation of Christianity among nations who did not know that religion; sent sometimes, too, to places where the soil must be remarkably barren and where men must have something beyond human support to bear the disappointment of the want of a harvest due to the barrenness of the soil, even if they lived till the harvest-time. He had heard it asked repeatedly in society—“What is there to show for all the work; what is there to show in China, for instance, for the enormous amount of money and work and the valuable lives both of missionaries and converts that have been spent?” He believed there was a great deal more to show than most people fancied. He had been surprised to learn from the Bishop what had been done in Fokhien. Yet China was a country of such vast antiquity—its customs, modes of thought were of such antiquity—that missions must be but as things of yesterday. He had been asked the other day what there was to show for work in Hongkong and he had referred his querist to Ordinance 18 of 1902, for it had struck him as a wonderful thing that last year it was not

only possible but absolutely necessary that the Legislature should pass an Ordinance to provide for the incorporation of the Church Body of the Chinese Anglican Church in Hongkong. If they had a Chinese Anglican Church in Hongkong which required an Ordinance for the incorporation of its Church Body, he thought it was a wonderful piece of progress, a thing they ought to be thankful for, and a thing from which they might expect much in the future. (Applause.) The Chairman then introduced Rev. H. J. Barnett to the meeting.

Rev. Mr. BARNETT gave an address on “Missionary Work among the Chinese in Australia.” The Chinese in Australia, he said was under two limitations; he must not play *fan-tan* and must not work long hours. The Chinese community was divided into two principal classes: cabinet-makers in the cities and gardeners in the country. In the cities the Chinese necessarily lived in the lowest quarters. That was one of the difficulties the missionary had to face. Of difficulties there were various kinds. Another was that the Chinese only remained in Australia long enough to get a competency, whereupon he returned to China and the missions lost touch with him. In Melbourne four missions and four schools were working. There was a lack of Europeans to direct the work. It would be a good thing too if Chinese returning to China were kept sight of and not allowed to lapse into heathenism. Mr. Barnett after giving an interesting account of how the work was carried out, concluded by expressing the hope that it would be persevered in and would be blessed.

Rev. J. DATHAN of H.M.S. *Goliath* afterwards spoke on “Missionary Work in Japan,” of which he gave a racy, instructive account. With reference to the desire of the Japanese to have a Japanese Bishop, he said there were one or two men in the Church who would make excellent Bishops but there was little chance of a succession of Bishops; so that he thought the Japanese were going a little too far ahead and that it would be better if they strengthened the lower orders of the ministry first, and then when there was a chance of a succession of good able men for the Bishopric they could take that in hand. Of the work among the student class he also spoke. One practical difficulty, he mentioned, there was, and that was the paying of the native pastors. The scale was fixed some time ago and owing to the increased cost of everything it was almost impossible for the pastors and catechists to live on their salaries; so that the Church would have to take some means to provide more liberally for its workers. In the mission work in Japan, he said in conclusion, there was good life, good growth, a good deal of energy, and, what most people would not believe, a good deal of very level-headed commonsense:

On the motion of the CHAIRMAN, a cordial vote of thanks was awarded to the rev. gentlemen for their addresses.

A similar compliment was accorded Sir William Goodman for presiding, on the motion of Rev. F. T. JOHNSON, seconded by Mr. E. H. SHARP.

The meeting ended with the benediction.

MISSIONS TO SEAMEN, HONGKONG.

The annual meeting of the above society was held in the Sailors' Institute, Kowloon, on the evening of the 30th ult. The meeting was preceded by a tea to which some 220 people sat down. The great majority of these were sailors from both the merchant service and the Royal Navy. The room was subsequently crowded to its utmost capacity by friends and supporters of the work. Archdeacon Banister occupied the chair. In the course of the evening a number of carols were sung by the boys of the Church Choir (dressed in sailors' costume) with the kind assistance of many outside friends. Amongst those who were present were the Revs. F. T. Johnson, Colonial Chaplain; E. H. Good, R.N.; R. M. Beatty, H.M.S. *Cressy*; Dathan, H.M.S. *Goliath*; G. Bunbury, C.M.S.; W. J. Southam, besides the two Chaplains of the Mission, Rev. J. H. France, and Rev. T. Wright. Mrs. Brewett very kindly sang solos, which were much appreciated by the audience as were also the items rendered by Mr. C. H. P. Hay. The Senior

Chaplain gave an encouraging statement to the work of the Church and Mission during the year 1902. The number of sailors who had attended at S. Peter's Church showed a substantial increase on the figures of the previous year; also the number of seamen communicants, and the amount of the offertories taken at the Church. The weekly concerts and temporary meetings had been kept up regularly, and hearty thanks were accorded to the many friends who had assisted at these to make the sailors' visits to Hongkong as bright as possible. The attendance at the weekly Bible classes showed an aggregate increase of 200 over the previous year. The work of the mission launch *Dayspring* was again found to be invaluable as by means of her the chaplains were enabled to pay some 2,700 visits to ships during the year. The committee accorded their best thanks to the Dock Company who had thoroughly overhauled the launch, to the Hongkong Steam Water-boat Co., who had kindly supplied her with water, and to the various Companies and individuals who had so generously supplied her with coal. Thanks were also given to Mr. H. Sykes, the Hon. Organist, and to Mr. A. Sheffield, Hon. Chormaster, for their services during the year.

During the evening short addresses were given by Rev. E. H. Good and W. J. Southam, as well as by the Chairman, and an exceedingly hearty and enthusiastic meeting terminated with the Doxology.

CANTON.

[FROM A CORRESPONDENT.]

Canton, 31st December, 1902.

A CURIOUS FIGHT.

During the last few nights the sound of distant firing has been heard in the city emanating from a district some six or seven miles away, where two villages have quarrelled over an intermediate water-supply. They employ both rifles and cannon, but reports say that few lives are lost, which is the less surprising because the combatants sleep, smoke or till their fields in day time, and only fight during the night. There is not, as was first supposed, any connection between this firing and the evergreen rebellion further up the river.

ON THE HONGKONG MODEL.

The Kwang Chau Prefect is attempting to form a scheme for organising the local police on the same system as that employed in Hongkong, but at present financial difficulties stand in the way.

A NATIVE RUMOUR.

There is a much-believed rumour in Canton that an edict will shortly be issued commanding all the people to adopt foreign dress upon the first day of the Chinese New Year.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.]

Canton, 3rd January.

THE NEW YEAR.

New Year's Day passed off very quietly in Shamian; some of the residents going out riding, and others picnicking in steam-launches and flower-boats.

A GRAND WEDDING.

On the 29th ult. a grand marriage took place in Canton between the daughter of Chow Tung-sang, a millionaire, and a young man of the name of Cheong, also of rich family. There were large banquets and a theatrical performance in the house of Chow Tung-sang, to which, among a large number of guests, the Consuls and officials, foreign and Chinese, were invited.

KWANGSI.

In view of the serious disturbances in Kwangsi, the Provincial Governor Wang Chi-chon sent a telegram to the Acting Viceroy Tak Sow at Canton, requesting His Excellency to send either the Black Flag General Liu Yung-fu or General Fung Tze-chai. Thereupon the Viceroy consulted with Liu Yung-fu, and asked him to take the five battalions (each consisting of 500 soldiers) under his command to Kwangsi to serve under the Provincial Governor. Liu Yung-fu did not fall in with such a proposal; he said that the Hunan troops could never agree with the Cantonese, and it would be bad policy to put them under the control of Wang Chi-chon. In any emergency they would be useless. To sweep the rebels away it would be

necessary to enlist more troops, say ten battalions, in addition to what there are in the garrisons, and they should not be under the control of Wang Chi-chon. So Liu refused to go and the Viceroy had to despatch another general, Pao Pui-kai.

PIRATES.

The pirates on the Canton river frequently carry on their depredations in various disguises; sometimes as officials of the revenue cruisers, with a pretext of searching for contraband, sometimes as soldiers patrolling the river, sometimes as merchants, sometimes as passengers, and sometimes as boatmen in slipper-boats so as to take passengers to a long distance and then rob them. A few days ago a certain Chinese, by name Ngai Hang, came from Hongkong to Canton by the night boat; on arrival he engaged a boat to take him ashore. Another boat came into collision with this, and the boatmen started quarrelling. The pirates then jumped into the first boat, beat the boatmen, and robbed the passenger of his luggage. They were arrested and identified, and are lodged in the Nam Hoi gaol.

A TRAGEDY.

In Fatshan, somewhere near Shekwan, there was an earthenware-maker by name Chan Yung Tai, over sixty years of age. He had been married three or four times, and all his wives died without children, which the Chinese call "tough life." Lately he was betrothed to a girl of seventeen, of the same place. But it seems that the girl did not like the elderly bridegroom, for on the day of the marriage, when the bridal chair was brought to take her to Chan's house, she ran into her room, closed the door, and cut her throat with a pair of scissors. When the door was broken open she was found in a pool of blood; and the bridegroom had to pay for her funeral.

[FROM ANOTHER CORRESPONDENT.]

Canton, 5th January.

ALLEGED INCENDIARISM.

In the beginning of February last year the German School at Luk Hang Village, in the Fa Yuen District near Canton, when nearing completion, was destroyed by fire. It was alleged that the outbreak of fire was due to the act of an incendiary, so the German Consul took up the matter, and communicated it to the Viceroy and at the same time claimed \$20,000 damages, being the cost of the building of the school in question. The Viceroy on receipt of the communication forthwith ordered a *wei-yuen* to institute enquiries into the matter. Owing to his inability to find out the real cause of the origin of the fire, the Viceroy appointed another *wei-yuen* in the person of Li Chi to take up the matter. This gentleman is the Secretary to the Hoppo of Canton and speaks very fluent English. He is very highly respected by the foreign Consuls in Shameen. In fact, he has on occasions previously been appointed by the Viceroy to enquire into matters of dispute arising between Chinese and foreigners, and all such enquiries conducted by him have been settled in a most friendly manner. The Viceroy has undoubtedly realised the valuable services of this gentleman, hence he was again appointed to enquire into the present case.

Li Chi has recently, in consequence of the instructions received from the Viceroy, proceeded to the scene of the fire and instituted enquiries into the matter. The enquiries were conducted in conjunction with the Vice-German Consul of Canton, Sham Yuk Toi, ex-Magistrate of the Heungshan District, and Colonel Yang, Commander of the Shameen Guard. Several native converts were brought forward to prove the alleged incendiaryism, but unfortunately none of them seemed to know how the fire originated. It appeared that the contractor who undertook to build the school in question had a matshed near by. This matshed was used as a workshop by his workmen for sawing timber and for other purposes in connection with the building of the school; somehow or other, it caught fire and the conflagration spread all over the place, and the school subsequently caught fire and was completely destroyed. Fortunately the chapel and the mission house which were close by escaped. However, as none of the native converts who came forward as witnesses were

able to prove the case, the claim of damages fell to the ground. Li Chi therefore reported the matter to the Viceroy and recommended that the claim in question could not be entertained and should be disallowed. The German Consul was communicated with accordingly.

SWATOW.**[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.]**

Swatow, 5th January.

MYSTERIOUS TRAGEDY.

Off Suabae, a large place, situated midway between here and Hongkong, over a hundred dead bodies were picked up, floating in the water, a few days back. The first intelligence of this sad affair was received here on Friday last, when a Chinaman came to Swatow from Suabae and solicited funds to enable the people there to bury the bodies of the unfortunate dead. Regular steam launches ply between this and Suabae, and between th' t place and Hongkong. As yet no further light has been thrown on this affair, which forcibly indicates that a steamer must have met with an appalling disaster somewhere between here and Hongkong, as junks never, or very seldom, carry any large number of passengers. As in such circumstances various rumours are generally circulated, I state with great reserve one that has been freely repeated here for the past two days, namely that the s.s. *Chow Tai*, one of the North German Lloyd vessels, is supposed to be the victim of the calamity. [It has since been proved, by the safe arrival of the *Chow Tai* at Bangkok, that it is not this vessel which met with the catastrophe—E. D. P.]

PAKHOI.**[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.]**

Pakhoi, 2nd January.

ESTABLISHMENT OF A GERMAN CONSULATE.
The establishment of a German Consulate at this port, which has long been spoken of, has become an accomplished fact at last. Dr. T. Mudra arrived here in November last to take charge of the Consulate, and, in the absence of a proper building for the purpose, he is putting up at a private residence where he has been carrying on the work since the 1st December, pending the erection of the Consular buildings, the work on which is now approaching completion. As you may probably know, German interests here were formerly represented by the British Consul. The arrival of Dr. Mudra to create the Consulate before the erection of a proper building has even commenced as is due, I am told, to force of circumstances, as German affairs here, of late have taken such an important aspect as to warrant the immediate presence of a Consul. Dr. Mudra, is also to represent Germany in the neighbouring port of Hoihow. European interests here are now represented by no less than three Consuls—British, French, and German.

THE REBELLION IN KWANGSI.

The s.s. *Hongkong* arrived here last week with over five hundred braves from Canton to replace the garrison in Tamhow, which has been depleted recently through sending reinforcements to N-ning to quell the rebellion in Kwangsi. It is reported that no less than four villages have fallen into the hands of the rebels.

RELEASED BY THE PIRATES.

Telegraphic advices were received here last night stating that the principal of the firm of Ching Ts & Co., of this port, by name Kwan, who had been held for ransom by pirates in the Kowkong district, near Canton, some time last month, is now released, after paying an enormous sum of money to his captors. As the man in question is well known here as well as elsewhere, the news cannot fail to be received with gratification by his many friends, who were, deeply concerned as to his whereabouts and how he fared in the hands of the scoundrels during the late severe weather, for he was a man of nearly sixty summers.

CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR.

Christmas Day was observed as a holiday, and it passed off most uneventfully, the weather being miserably dull and rainy, so much so that

the athletic sports arranged for that day had to be postponed in consequence.

The New Year was also observed as a holiday, and being graced by bright weather, the athletic sports held over from Christmas Day came off successfully and were well patronised by the foreign community. The natives flocked in thousands to see the fun, this being the first time such an open-air amusement was arranged in the port. The following are the various items of the events:—

1. MENAGERIE RACE, 50 yards (handicap). One prize.
2. T. Loureiro's Goose 1
3. PUTTING THE SHOT (16 lbs.) One prize.
4. G. E. Bell 1
5. STONE AND BUCKET RACE. One prize.
6. V. Drayson 1
7. 4: 100 YARDS FLAT RACE. Two prizes. 1st prize presented by the Commissioner, E. O. Reis, Esq.
8. A. Brand 1
9. V. Drayson 2
10. EG + AND SPOON RACE. One prize.
11. V. Drayson 1
12. THREE-LEGGED RACE. Two prizes.
13. T. Loureiro and V. Drayson... ... 1
14. LONG JUMP. One prize.
15. G. E. Bell 1
16. WHEELBARROW RACE. One prize.
17. G. E. Bell 1
18. 9. TUG-OF-WAR, "Strong v. Weak." Six a side. It is needless to say the "Stronger" got the best of it.

L. Flayelle, Esq., Consul of France; H. A. Little, Esq., British Consul; and E. O. Reis, Esq., Commissioner, I. M. C., consented to act as judges and starters, but M. Flayelle being absent at Haiphong, Dr. Abbatucci acted in his instead.

The following gentlemen formed the Executive Committee:—Dr. Abbatucci, A. Brand, Esq., and Dr. J. H. Lowry.

Great praise is due to the gentlemen of the Committee and to the members of the Customs staff for the able manner in which they adapted the vacant piece of ground alongside the British Consulate for the accommodation and comfort of the visitors. Order was kept by a gang of braves and the Customs boatmen, kindly lent by their respective superiors.

COREAN NOTES.**[FROM A CORRESPONDENT.]**

Mokpo, 24th December.

CABINET CHANGES.

Some changes have just been made in the Corean Cabinet, Min Yung Chuk having been appointed Minister of Education, Kin Sag Kum of Finance, Ye Sei Keuk of Justice, and Kia Chou Hyen of the Home Department. Yi Yong Yik, after his dismissal from office, was banished from the Imperial Court and said to have left for Kyajuu by a Russian man-of-war.

THE JAPANESE REPRESENTATIVE.

Mr. Hayashi, Japanese Minister, left Chemulpo for Japan on the 21st inst. and is expected back at the end of January.

THE FUSAN FIRE.

The Emperor of Japan has very kindly presented the sum of 1,000 yen to the sufferers from the fire in the Japanese settlement at Fusan.

CORANS FOR HAWAII.

It is reported that the first batch of Corean emigrants for Hawaii, to the number of 50, will leave Chemulpo in the course of a few days. The importation is under the control of the U.S. Government.

The Bank of Japan's specie reserve has reached the unprecedented figure of 139 million yen. Its loans at present aggregate only 37 millions and its margin of note issuing power is 15 million yen. This state of affairs appears to be regarded with satisfaction by some Japanese journals, says the *Japan Daily Mail*, but others justly consider it an evidence of business depression. As a matter of fact the stagnation in business circles is about as bad this winter as anything we can recall during the past thirty years. Small tradesfolk who usually have their hands full of work, are altogether idle, and signs of straitened circumstances are everywhere visible.

CORRESPONDENCE.

[We do not hold ourselves responsible for the opinions expressed by our correspondents.]

HOUSE COLLAPSES.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

Hongkong, 31st December.

SIR,—Being one of those unfortunate beings who have to live in houses built in this Colony, I have perused with some interest the long letter addressed to you by a juror in the late manslaughter case. Not having been present in court when the case was heard, it would be absurd for me to controvert the facts stated by your correspondent; but I think it only fair to those who have to employ contractors to point out what I deem to be a fallacy in the argument adduced by Mr. Gibson. He appears to suggest that because, in his opinion, the house that collapsed received "scant treatment at the hands of so-called overseers" (presumably he means the Inspector of Buildings) the law relieves the contractor of the liability laid upon him of complying with the Building Ordinance, and he asks "If the law has been made, whose duty is to see that it has been complied with? Surely somebody's." I ask: Was not that somebody the contractor in the case to which he refers?

Supposing the Inspector of Buildings not to have discovered that the contractor had failed to comply with the Building Ordinance, surely this does not, either in law or in commonsense, relieve the contractor of his liability. Were this rule to be followed, the failure of the police to detect the author of a crime might be said to be a justification of the criminal.—Yours, etc.,

OLD RESIDENT.

THE CURRENCY QUESTION.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

Hongkong, 8th January.

SIR,—It was with no little surprise that I read the account of the special meeting of the Committee of the Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce, held on the 23rd December, and found that, at the end of an interesting, but very far from exhaustive discussion, it was decided not to call a special general meeting to consider the currency question. The Chairman, I see, said:—"To my idea, the chief objection to the Committee calling a general meeting of members is that in all probability no one will come forward with any well-thought-out scheme or proposal, and that the meeting will only result in some general desultory discussion which would not only not tend to further matters but would probably be productive of harm, and might create a bad impression." This is a poor compliment to the intelligence of the members of the Chamber, and I should like to ask why they should not be capable of thinking out proposals or discussing otherwise than desultorily the most important question which has ever arisen in connection with the trade between Hongkong and China? My personal opinion may be worthless, but to me what looks likely to do harm and create a bad impression is any attempt to Burke the discussion of this question. I appeal, not (I hope) altogether in vain, to those who wish to see this momentous subject openly and fairly dealt away from the shadow of overwhelming interests, to do what they can to rescue it from being consigned to oblivion. Even if we suppose that no concrete proposals will be formulated by a general meeting of the Chamber of Commerce, we shall at least get tangible arguments. The case of the Silverites was ably presented on the 23rd ult., but the other side was apparently overawed by the talents against them. This is no fair field, and the decision of the Committee is not a correct representation either of the views of the whole Chamber of Commerce or of the commercial community at large.—Yours, etc.

A. P. A.

The London Gazette announces that the King has been pleased to approve of the appointment of Charles Wedderburn Dickson, Esq., to be an unofficial member of the Executive and Legislative Councils of the Colony of Hongkong.

SUPREME COURT.

Tuesday, 6th January.

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR A. G. WISE
(PUISNE JUDGE).

SEQUEL TO A COMPRADORE'S FRAUDS.

The hearing was resumed of the case in which the Tysing shop claimed from Messrs. Lauts, Wegener & Co. the sum of \$1,125, restricted to \$1,000, as damages for the non-delivery of 100 cases of beer, being part of 200 cases purchased by the plaintiffs from the defendant's and paid for on 23rd June, 1902, the other portion of which, namely 100 cases, was taken delivery of by the plaintiffs on or about 30th June, 1902.

Mr. J. Hastings of Messrs. Deacon and Hastings, solicitors, appeared for the plaintiffs, and Mr. G. C. C. Master of Messrs. Johnson, Stokes and Master, solicitors, for the defendants.

Mr. Master said he desired to ask an adjournment of the case. It was apparent that the case was going to turn on the position of a compradore towards his principals, and he desired the adjournment to allow him to call Mr. Lauts, who was at present in Swatow.

Mr. Hastings objected to the adjournment. The defendants had known all the time what their defence was; he had not. If they required Mr. Lauts's evidence they could have asked for it before; he did not see, after all, that Mr. Lauts's evidence would elucidate this matter at all. They knew what compradores were in this Colony and what were the lines of their dealings with Chinese customers or firms; and he could not see how any evidence given by Mr. Lauts could alter the customs.

His Lordship said they had had no evidence from the plaintiff side as to any custom at all.

Mr. Hastings replied that his point was that his clients had been dealing with the compradores for years, buying goods and paying him the money.

His Lordship remarked that the defendant firm said they knew nothing about this matter.

Mr. Hastings contended that if a man who had had authority for years to make sales disobeyed his instructions and sold at the wrong price, it did not take away his authority with regard to the people with whom he was dealing.

Mr. Master stated that he was going to show that this compradore, as with compradores in general in Hongkong, had no authority from their principals to take any contract without getting the principals' authority and consent and he proposed to show his Lordship that in each case a delivery order was always made out and that that was the way the compradore brought the deal to the notice of the firm. What the compradore put on afterwards could not bind them. He again asked for an adjournment.

His Lordship allowed an adjournment *sine die*, with liberty to the plaintiff to call rebutting evidence; question of costs reserved.

The Court adjourned.

Wednesday, 7th January.

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR A. G. WISE
(PUISNE JUDGE).

A REBUFF FROM THE BENCH.

A case was called in which Tam Tso Pui, contractor, sued another contractor, Tse Chan Tsung, for the sum of \$379 54, being principal and interest due upon a Chinese promissory note; there was also a cross-action for \$185 36 in respect of work done and materials supplied.

Mr. E. O. Pontifex appeared for the plaintiff in the original action and Mr. Paget Hett for the defendant.

Mr. Pontifex said he desired to ask his Lordship for an adjournment till 11 o'clock. Mr. Harston, who had charge of this case, was engaged at the Police Court on a case which had been adjourned from the previous day. He himself had not gone into this case and was unable to go on with it.

Mr. Hett said he had no objection to an adjournment.

His Lordship—But I have; the case is fixed for a quarter past ten.

Mr. Pontifex—Mr. Harston could not really help it. This case at the Police Court was adjourned in the afternoon till this morning.

His Lordship—I don't care twopence about the Police Court. It has not been the custom here to adjourn cases because of Police Court proceedings, and I am not going to begin it now. As a matter of fact, Mr. Harston, instead of being here to conduct this case, is earning money somewhere else.

Mr. Pontifex—But, your Lordship—

His Lordship—I cannot grant the adjournment you ask for. The case will go on next Friday's list.

Mr. Hett—And the costs of the adjournment?

His Lordship—You are entitled to costs for this appearance.

The Court adjourned.

Thursday, 8th January.

IN ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR SIR WILLIAM M. GOODMAN (CHIEF JUSTICE).

A WORD TO THE BAR.

In the course of yesterday's sitting of the Court, his Lordship said he desired to make it known to the legal profession that he greatly disapproved of the applications which, for the convenience of solicitors or counsel, were so often made for the postponement of the hearing of cases which had been set down for hearing on certain days, and after arrangements had been made by the Court to take such cases on those days. In future he would not allow any such postponements unless very strong grounds were shown for his doing so. When such applications were made in the case of appeals, after the Judges had arranged to sit together so as to form a Full Court for the hearing, they caused grave inconvenience, as the Judges had to make their arrangements some time beforehand.

The Court afterwards adjourned.

THE MURDER OF MR. EVANS.

At the Magistracy on the 6th inst. before Mr. F. A. Hazeland, Wong Kwai and Wong Lin were charged with piracy on the Canton River on or about 12th November last, and pleaded not guilty. Mr. F. J. Badeley, Captain Superintendent of Police, conducted the prosecution.

The piracy referred to was that which involved the shooting and subsequent death of Mr. Evans, for many years constable to H. B. M. Consul at Canton. The facts of the case are related in the statement made to the police here three days after the event by Pang Chun, master of the pirated junk *I Hop*. He said that about 7 p.m. on 12th November, whilst on the way from Canton to Hongkong with firewood, and when off Foo Mun, in Chinese waters, three rowing-boats containing twelve men each attacked the junk, which the pirates boarded; they were armed with muskets and revolvers. Several shots were fired, and the crew of the *I Hop*, including the master, went down into the hold; an European passenger (Mr. Evans) was wounded in both legs. The junk was then ransacked, and the robbers made off with the following property:—\$100 in ten and twenty cent pieces, and a quantity of Chinese jewelry, consisting of gold finger-rings, earings, and bangles, of the value of about \$20; total value, about \$350. Pang Chun concluded by saying that the robbers could not be identified.

The authorities here set to work on the case, and on New Year's Night, in Kowloon, arrested three men, the two defendants and another, who turned King's evidence.

This man, who is named Tam Tai and is employed on a marriage-boat at Yaumati, was placed in the witness-box and said that on a certain night in November last he was in a boat at Taiping with the second defendant and two others, and the second defendant asked him to go to Tai Sha to rob a certain rice-junk. All four went, although witness was at first unwilling. They proceeded to Shek Tong Sha and waited for two other boats, in which there were eight men—three in one and five in the other. The plot was explained, and the other two boats agreed to join forces with the first. Tai Sha was reached a little before six

o'clock, when it was quite dark, and all three boats were rowed to the rice-junk, which was lying at anchor. Nine men boarded her, and three, including witness, remained behind to look after the three boats, one man occupying each. Witness was not sure whether or not the first defendant boarded the rice-junk, as he was in another boat, but the second defendant was in the same boat with witness, and boarded the rice-junk. On her deck witness saw an Englishman, and the second defendant went up to him and shot him in the thigh with a revolver. He fell, and the second defendant took away from him a long firearm he was holding, and also his watch.

His Worship—You saw this with your own eyes?

Witness replied in the affirmative, and said that the robbers then proceeded to ransack the junk, the crew running down below in fear. The booty from the junk was placed on the three boats and they were rowed back to Tai Sha, where the loot was divided; witness's share was \$15 and some clothing. The first defendant got clothing, a firearm, and about \$10, and the second defendant the Englishman's watch, some clothing, and also about \$10 in money. After the division of the loot all three boats returned to Shek Tong Sha, where they separated, witness returning in his boat to Taiping and afterwards going to Canton. In his boat, when they went to commit the robbery, there were four firearms, and the other boats had one firearm to each man.

This was the only evidence taken, and the case was adjourned.

ENQUIRIES INTO COLLAPSES OF BUILDINGS.

TUNG LOI LANE.

An enquiry was opened on the 7th inst. before Mr. F. A. Hazland and a common jury into the circumstances attending the fatal collapse of two houses in Tung Loi Lane (near the Harbour Office) on 12th November last. Mr. F. B. L. Bowley, Crown Solicitor, appeared on behalf of the Crown, and Mr. H. W. Looker on behalf of the contractors and shorers, the Wing Sing firm, and the architects, Messrs. Leigh and Orange.

The jurors were—Messrs. W. Goldenberg, C. H. Blason, and E. W. Terrey.

Addressing the jury, Mr. Bowley said the object of their being there was to enquire into the causes of the deaths of two Chinese labourers, one of whom was killed at the time of the collapse and the other of whom died in hospital on the same evening from injuries occasioned by the collapse. It would be the duty of the jury to enquire into the causes of the deaths of these two men and to ascertain whether, in their opinion, blame attached to anyone. Evidence would be adduced to show that a number of houses in Wing Lok Street, beginning at No. 128 and ending at No. 136, were in process of being rebuilt, and the most of the old houses had been pulled down. The houses in Wing Lok Street were back to back with those in Tung Loi Lane, and the party wall separating No. 128 from No. 128, Wing Lok Street had to be pulled down and rebuilt. At the time of the collapse the adjoining houses had been in great part pulled down, but a portion in Tung Loi Lane was standing as high as the level of the first floor—about 14 feet. The party wall between Nos. 12 and 14, Tung Loi Lane collapsed right down to the first floor level, and that necessarily involved the falling-in of the two upper floors and the roofs of each of these two houses; a great portion of the first floor also gave way. The collapse occurred about two o'clock in the day, and at the time there were two bricklayers at work in the kitchen on the third floor of No. 12. One of these men escaped in time, but the other went down with the house and sustained injuries, from which he died that evening in the Government Civil Hospital. Neither of these two men had anything to do with the building operations; they were simply doing some small repairs for the owner of No. 12. At the same time a number of bricklayers who were engaged on the building work were stacking bricks, and one of them was killed. Four other bricklayers

who were also buried in the debris were extricated by the police, and were not seriously injured. There were two theories to account for the collapse, both by interested parties and both conflicting. One would be supported by the owner of No. 12 and the other by the contractor. One of these theories was that the alterations to No. 14 were not carried out with sufficient care and skill, and that in consequence the party wall between Nos. 12 and 14, being disturbed by the building operations, fell, and in falling brought down the two houses. The other theory probably would be that the first floor of No. 12, which was supported by a double set of joists, was very heavily laden at the time of the accident. This floor was used practically as a godown by the occupier, and there was no doubt that at the time of the accident there was a large quantity of various goods stored there, and it might be that the weight was excessive and the floor not sufficiently strong to support it, causing it to give way and thus bringing on the collapse. It would be for the jury to decide whether the accident was due to the breaking of the floor or to the fall of the party wall. The taking down of the wall of No. 14, the jury would see, was a risky operation which must necessarily endanger the stability of the house, and unless proper care and skill had been exercised in the operation it would be for the jury to find that the persons responsible were negligent, and that their negligence brought about the accident.

Mr. Looker said the jury had not to find out whether any blame attached to any one, but simply whether there had been any criminal negligence. There was a deal of difference between criminal negligence and blame.

His Worship agreed that the word "blame" was a little wide, and said he would make the matter clear to the jury when they had heard the evidence and before they gave their verdict.

Formal evidence having been taken, Yik Foo Man, manager of a Chinese mercantile firm occupying, before the collapse, premises at 124, Wing Lok Street and 12 Tung Loi Lane, said that at the time of the collapse, on the first floor of No. 12, there were 49 bags of pepper, 50 bags of sago flour, and 10 cases of tobacco, the total weight of which was about 8½ tons. When the firm rented the premises this floor was strengthened by the placing of five beams under it.

The hearing was afterwards adjourned.

The enquiry was resumed on the 8th inst. The jurors were—Messrs. W. Goldenberg, C. H. Blason, and E. W. Terrey.

Evidence by Chinese witnesses constituted the afternoon's proceedings, Yik Foo Man, the last witness examined on the previous day, being recalled by Mr. Looker and questioned as to the weight, 8½ tons, on the first floor of No. 12, Tung Loi Lane at the time of the collapse. He admitted that he had not visited the floor referred to on the day of the collapse, and had no personal knowledge of the weight of the goods stored there. He was quite sure, however, that there was nothing whatever on the ground and first floors of No. 14, Tung Loi Lane at the time of the accident, not even a quantity of old copper.

Photographs of the collapsed houses were put in by Mr. Bowley, who explained that they had been taken by Mr. Crisp, Inspector of Buildings, Public Works Department. No particular point hinged on the photographs, the Crown Solicitor said in reply to Mr. Looker; they simply might be useful in helping the jury to follow the evidence.

Leung Yai Tai, the master of the Wo Hop scaffolding shop, Wauchai Road, which put up the shorings to the houses, said he had been in business for himself for ten odd years, and knew all about scaffolding. He had been to the Colonial Exhibition in London in 1886, and put up some scaffolds there. He detailed the work he had done in connection with the ten houses in Wing Lok Street and Tung Loi Lane, which were being pulled down and rebuilt. Vertical props were first put up, and these were succeeded by sloping props as the work of demolition progressed. Five groups of shorings, at intervals of ten feet, were put up against No. 14, Tung Loi Lane (one of the two collapsed houses, of which the other was No. 12). The work on these props was finished about three weeks

before the accident. He examined the party wall between Nos. 12 and 14, and worked out in figures the weight the props had to support.

In answer to Mr. Looker, witness said he had been in the scaffolding business ever since he was ten years old, and, as before stated, had been a master for about ten years, during which time he had put up a great quantity of shoring in the Colony. Not once had a wall which he had shored up collapsed, and in those cases he carried out the work in the same way as in the present instance.

Further examined by Mr. Bowley, he said the props against the wall of No. 14, because of the godown there, were 50 per cent. stronger than those now standing against No. 12.

Pui Po, master of the Wing Sing shop, was the next witness. Last year, he said, he made a contract for the pulling down and rebuilding of the ten houses in Wing Lok Street and Tung Loi Lane. The plans were prepared by Mr. Mullau, architect, who left the Colony about three months after the work started, and were afterwards amended by Mr. Orange. No new contract was entered into with the owner in respect of the later plan; any additional work under it was simply to be charged as extra. Mr. Orange frequently visited the work during its progress, and the English foreman engaged by him went down to the job sometimes once and sometimes twice a day. Witness went over details connected with the shoring, and said he had no idea as to what caused the collapse.

The enquiry was adjourned.

The enquiry was resumed on the 9th inst. The jurors were—Messrs. W. Goldenberg, C. H. Blason, and E. W. Terrey.

Pui Po, Master of the Wing Sing contracting shop, was examined by Mr. Looker, the Crown Solicitor first asking his Worship not to allow any leading questions, as his friend appeared on behalf of the witness. Mr. Looker replied that if the Crown Solicitor objected to the form of any of his questions he had only to mention it and their form would be altered.

Pui Po said he was fully satisfied with the shoring that was put up by the Wo Hop scaffolding shop, which had done work for him for a number of years. Witness had had ten odd years' experience in pulling down buildings in this Colony, and in cases where the conditions had been similar to those obtaining in Tung Loi Lane the shoring was carried out in the same way, with the result that there had never been a collapse. Witness said he visited the collapse on the afternoon it occurred, and saw amongst the debris some boxes and old copper; he did not know where the stuff came from.

James Orange, of the firm of Messrs. Leigh & Orange, civil engineer, and architects, was called and examined by Mr. Looker. He stated that in his opinion nothing more than the measures adopted could reasonably have been done to render the shoring of the party wall between Nos. 12 and 14, Tung Loi Lane safer or more secure. From his 13 years' experience in this Colony, he believed that the work of Chinese scaffolding firms was to be relied on.

In answer to Mr. Bowley, he said he had formed no idea at all as to why the houses collapsed.

R. Bert Hemmings, an outdoor assistant employed by Messrs. Leigh & Orange, said, in reply to Mr. Looker, that it was part of his duty to look after the rebuilding of the five houses in Wing Lok Street and Tung Loi Lane. As far as he could see the shoring appeared to be all right, and as to the work of pulling down the houses, for a week before the collapse practically nothing was done in the way of demolishing the party wall between Nos. 12 and 14, Tung Loi Lane.

Examined by Mr. Bowley, witness said he visited the works every day except Sunday, and waited sometimes for twenty minutes, sometimes for an hour.

Hugh Pollock Tooker, executive engineer, Public Works Department, examined by Mr. Bowley, said that when he went to the collapsed houses on the afternoon of the accident he saw at one portion that the first floor of No. 12, used as a godown, had been supported by a double set of joists, and from other signs he came to the conclusion that the whole floor had

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been supported in that way. This would make the floor considerably stronger. His explanation of the collapse was that the floor joints and roof timbers of No. 14 moved slightly after they were shored up, which would have the effect of disintegrating the party wall.

The hearing was afterwards adjourned till to-day at 2.15 p.m.

SPORTING NOTES.

(*Daily Press*, 10th January.)

The two recent cricket matches, in which the Club met first the Navy and secondly a Naval XI, were curiously contrasted in their results. In the New Year's Day game the Club was dismissed for 146 in the first innings and it looked a good thing for the Navy, but during the holidays anything may be expected and a strong team on paper got out for just over one hundred runs. The three Dixons, W., J. T. and W. E., had a great share in the Club victory. Last Saturday's game, on the other hand though the Club had seven of the late winning team playing, saw a much weaker Naval side, win by 89 runs, scoring more than double the Club's total on the first innings. W. Dixon again played a capital all-round game, but was only supported by the batting of Fan haws in the first innings and of Fawcett in the second. The Club made a miserable display. To-day they have to meet a team from the Navy, which is very powerful considering the number of ships which have just left the Harbour. On a cent form it is anyone's game.

The H.K.F.C., having received its quietus in the very first round of the Association Shield, will have rather a dull season, it is to be feared. To-day the V.R.C. will be met in a friendly game. The latter Club now alone upholds the honour of civilian football in the Shield this season, and in spite of their gallant struggle last year I do not anticipate they will go very far. Shield ties will soon occupy attention again.

The Club Rugbyists, after a glorious victory over the Combined Navy by a goal and a try to nil on Saturday last, came a cropper on Thursday, when the Albion's team beat them by 2 goals to a goal and a try. Few better games of Rugby football have been seen for some time in Hongkong than that on the 3rd inst. The Navy was perhaps a little stronger forward, but the Club forwards were good, only packing too loosely. The Club won the game at half and three-quarter back. All the three-quarters were good, and it is hard to discriminate among them. Heath must be mentioned for tackling and all-round play; Pearce played in his usual taking style, and Graham and Barnes were both excellent. The halves were capital and Padday is the man the Club has needed for some time, a really good half. Of the forwards, Clark never played a better game in Hongkong, and Halifax was of course prominent. The Navy front rank was very good, the halves were weaker than usual, and the three-quarters combined poorly, Pringle being too well marked to do more than represent "the good man struggling against adversity," that sight which the gods are supposed to love. The full backs of both teams played a sterling game.

The Hockey Shield competition is making good progress, though the departure of the Blenheim, which I hear is likely to remain North for a considerable spell, rather dislocates the tournament. The Blenheim is in the opinion of many the best team in, and it is to be hoped that she will return to conclude her match list. She has won three matches off the reel—from the Ocean, Goliath, and Talbot. The Club has gone very disappointingly of late. Since defeating its own "A" team by no less than 10 goals to nil, it succumbed on Thursday to the Ocean, which had previously lost to the Blenheim. In the latter match Barnes, who is the Club's most dangerous forward, was taken away by the

Rugby football match, and the weakening of the front line was very noticeable. Carter scored a goal, but there was a lamentable lack of pace and smartness among the forwards. All the same the Club was unlucky to lose by 3—1, as 2 of the Ocean's goals were at least doubtful. The Club has a chance of retrieving its fortunes, but will have to play a very much better game if it means to win the trophy. Next Thursday it meets the 14th Bombays, who have not played yet, but are reported to be very strong. The Club "A" team meets the Albion on Monday. The 10th Bombays have beaten the Talbot and look very promising. The two Gunners' teams have not yet started, but they have been practising, and one of them will no doubt furnish a good account of itself. The 33rd Burmas will also begin playing next week, so there will be a good deal of progress to report next Saturday.

On a brick-like ground, as far as the greater part of the Happy Valley links was concerned, the struggle for the Captain's Cup at the Golf Club's January meeting was the reverse of exciting. Though 23 entered, only two players had the temerity to send in their cards, and Mr. C. W. May won with an 86—8 handicap=80. The pool was won by Mr. C. G. Matthew, R.N., with 79 nett. The quarterly meeting for the MacEwen, Richardson, and Bogey Cups opened yesterday and concludes on Monday. It has been notified that all "patent" balls are barred in competitions—a wise decision.

It will have been seen that the races for the Commodore's Cup under the auspices of the Royal Hongkong Yacht Club begin to-day and continue next Saturday. The conditions appear in another column.

Singapore cricketers are to be commiserated on account of their Christmas performances. Defeats by Penang (by 6 wickets) and Perak (by 115), and in an "A" team match by Malacca are a lot to set off against a defeat of Negeri Sembilan, even though this was by an innings and 383 runs. Four Singapore golfers also went over to Penang at Christmas and suffered defeat from a Penang four by 20 holes to 0.

A Christmas football match was played at Chinkiang between the Settlement and the German warship *Seeadler*. The Germans won by 2 goals to 1. It is, I fancy, rather a novelty in China to see a German football team take the field.

OMPAX.

AMOY RACES.

AMOY, 5th January, 6.25 p.m.

FIRST DAY.

The first day's results are as follows:—

CONSULAR CUP.

<i>Ion</i>	1
<i>Style</i>	2
<i>Blueberry</i>	3

TRIAL STAKES.

<i>O.K.</i>	1
<i>Gutcher</i>	2
<i>Faith</i>	3

CHIN-CHIN PLATE.

<i>Little Willie</i>	1
<i>Lock Slapin</i>	2
<i>W. G.</i>	3

HAEKWAN CUP.

<i>Blancmange</i>	1
<i>Calibre</i>	2
<i>Ion</i>	3

CLUB CUP.

<i>Disgust</i>	1
<i>Sinbad</i>	2
<i>Style</i>	3

KULANGSU CUP.

<i>Hsin Bey</i>	1
<i>Orion</i>	2
<i>Style</i>	3

AMOY STAKES.

<i>W. G.</i>	1
<i>Little Willie</i>	2
<i>Style</i>	3

AMOY, 6th January.

SECOND DAY.

The following are the second day's results:—

AU REVOIR CUP.

<i>Star of Cork</i>	1
<i>Faith</i>	2
<i>O. K.</i>	3

AMOY DERBY.

<i>Ion</i>	1
<i>Orion</i>	2
<i>Saturn</i>	3

CHALLENGE CUP.

<i>Little Willie</i>	1
<i>W. G.</i>	2
<i>Lock Slapin</i>	3

EXCHANGE PLATE.

<i>Blueberry</i>	1
<i>Lock Slapin</i>	2
<i>Style</i>	3

TAOTAI CUP.

<i>Gutcher</i>	1
<i>Orion</i>	2

On the run-off Orion won.

RACING STAKES.

<i>W. G.</i>	1
<i>Blancmange</i>	2
<i>Disgust</i>	3

CHAASZE CUP.

<i>Calibre</i>	1
<i>Star of Cork</i>	2

AMOY, 7th January, 7 p.m.

THIRD DAY.

The following are the third day's results:—

LEDGER CUP.

<i>Disgust</i>	1
<i>Style</i>	2
<i>Valour</i>	3

FORMOSA CUP.

<i>Ion</i>	1
<i>Dwarf</i>	2
<i>Calibre</i>	3

LADIES' PURSE.

<i>Style</i>	1
<i>Blueberry</i>	2
<i>Lock Slapin</i>	3

LOTTERY CUP.

<i>Orion</i>	1
<i>O.K.</i>	2
<i>Star of Cork</i>	3

CONSOLATION CUP.

<i>Dwarf</i>	1
<i>Valour</i>	2
<i>Style</i>	3

NIL DESPERANDUM.

<i

Chairman: W. M. Scott, Esq.
 Committee: Messrs. J. Blake, A. McKirby, R. Galloway, T. Grimshaw, G. Buckland, J. Dickie, W. Hardwick, T. Hoskins, R. Stephenson, J. Ferguson, and T. Shand.
 Judges: Messrs. A. Rodger and J. J. Andrew.
 Timekeepers: Messrs. F. Howell and C. Lesbirel.

Clerks of the Course: Messrs. W. Hardwick and R. Galloway.

Handicappers: Messrs. J. Glyn, T. Meek, T. Grimshaw, A. McKirby and F. Howell.

Stewards: Messrs. J. Blake, J. Harvie, D. Hoskins, T. Grimshaw, J. Crosbie, T. Hoskins, G. Buckland and W. Smith.

Lap Scorers: Messrs. W. Farmer and A. Blake.

Starter: Mr. F. E. Shuster.

Hon. Secretary: Mr. R. H. Stephenson.

Appendix are the results:—

100 YARDS FLAT RACE HANDICAP (confined).
 1st prize presented by A. R. Grieve, Esq.
 2nd prize presented by Dr. Reunis.

G. H. Edwards (5 yards) 1
 R. H. Stephenson (7 yards) 2
 J. D. Danby (2 yards) 3
 Time, 10 2-5 secs.

2 MILE BICYCLE RACE. Open to all non-first-prizewinners. 1st prize presented by A. McKirby, Esq. 2nd prize presented by the China Sugar Refinery Staff.

H. C. Austin (scratch) 1
 D. Hoskins (250 yards) 2
 T. Hoskins (100 yards) 3
 Time, 5 mins. 7 2-5 secs.

QUARTER-MILE FLAT RACE HANDICAP. Open to China Sugar Refinery, Dock, and Victoria Recreation Club. 1st prize presented by the Royal Exchange Assurance Corporation. 2nd prize presented by Ah Kam.

J. D. Kinnaid (10 yards) 1
 A. R. Herton (1 yard) 2
 Time, 4 4-5 secs.

2 MILE BICYCLE RACE. Open to all comers. 1st prize presented by the Kowloon Dock Staff. 2nd prize presented by G. Fenwick & Co.

H. C. Austin (10 yards) 1
 A. McKirby (scratch) 2
 Time 4 mins. 58 2-5 secs.

McKirby lodged a protest on the ground that Austin passed him on the inside while the former was within the 6-foot line.

220 YARDS FLAT RACE HANDICAP (confined).

1st prize presented by the Cosmopolitan Dock.
 2nd prize presented by T. Hoskins, Esq.

G. Grimble (25 yards) 1
 R. H. Stephenson (15 yards) 2
 G. H. Edwards (10 yards) 3
 Time, 22 3-5 secs.

HIGH JUMP. Open to China Sugar Refinery Docks and V.R.C. Prize presented by W. Poate, Esq.

J. H. Witchell (4ft. 11in.) 1
 T. C. Gray (4ft. 10in.) 2

Witchell had a plucky try at the 5ft. height, but was unsuccessful.

1 MILE BICYCLE RACE (confined). 1st prize presented by the China Sugar Refinery Staff. 2nd prize presented by Jack Ah Tai.

A. McKirby (scratch) 1
 T. Hoskins (60 yards) 2
 T. Shand (50 yards) 3
 Time, 2 mins. 35 secs.

LONG JUMP (confined). 1st prize presented by W. M. Scott, Esq.

J. D. Danby (17ft. 9in.) 1
 W. Armstrong (17ft. 5in.) 2
 G. H. Edwards (16ft. 7in.) 3

5 MILES BICYCLE RACE HANDICAP. Open to all comers. 1st prize presented by the Mitsui Bussan-Kaisha. 2nd prize presented by Yuen Hop. 3rd prize presented by Mo' Koon Yuk.

A. McKirby (scratch) 1
 H. E. Austin (150 yards) 2
 Time, 13 mins. 16 secs.

Towards the finish of this race J. M. Bailey and H. S. Holmes got a bad spell on the straight, luckily their injuries were confined to bruises.

HALF-MILE FLAT RACE HANDICAP. Open to China Sugar Refinery, Docks and V.R.C. 1st prize presented by the V.R.C. 2nd prize presented by G. Buckland, Esq.

J. W. Kinnaid (20 yards) 1
 A. Humphreys (scratch) 2
 J. P. Jordan (25 yards) 3

2 MILES BICYCLE RACE. Open to gentlemen from 30 years of age and upwards. 1st prize presented by the London and Lancashire Fire Assurance Co. 2nd prize presented by Ah Wing.

A. McKirby (scratch) 1
 T. Shand (100 yards) 2
 Time, 5mins. 19 secs.

100 YARDS HURDLE RACE. 1st prize presented by W. Ramsay, Esq. 2nd prize presented by D. Templeton, Esq.

A. R. Herton (6 yards) 1
 J. P. Jordan (4 yards) 2
 C. S. Crane (5 yards) 3
 Time, 14 1-5 secs.

VETERAN'S 1 MILE BICYCLE RACE (Handicap on merit). Open to all comers over 40 years of age. Prize presented by J. N. Harvie, Esq. A. M. Roza Pereira (400 yards) 1
 T. Hoskins (scratch) 2
 No time taken.

LADIES' NOMINATION COSTUME FLAT RACE. 1st prize presented by the Mi'sui Bussan Kai-ha. 2nd prize for best or most original costume (to be decided by judges) presented by Ah Poi.

H. W. Sayer 1
 T. Benning 2

This race created a great deal of amusement. Each entrant had to run across the field and whistle a tune to the lady who had nominated him, which tune the lady had to write down the name of. This the competitor had then to carry to the judges. Some of the ladies seemed to have difficulty in identifying the tunes which their nominees whistled. Benning was second last to get home, but his costume (a clown's) won him the second prize. Sayer was nominated by Miss Sayer, Benning by Miss Holson.

1 MILE FLAT RACE SCRATCH. Open to all comers. 1st prize presented by A. R. Grieve, Esq. 2nd prize presented by J. Blake, Esq.

A. Humphreys 1
 J. D. Kinnaid 2
 F. E. Ellis 3
 Time, 5 mins. 24 1-5 secs.

VISITORS' RACE. One lap. Confined to visitors. Non-racing costume. Prize presented by the Taikoo Club.

R. Lapsley 1

CONSOLATION RACE. Prize presented by W. McDonald, Esq.

F. K. Tata 1

CHAMPION'S CUP (confined). To be decided on points, 3 points for a first, 2 for a second, 1 for a third. Prize presented by Y. H. Scott, Esq.

A. McKirby (11 points) 1

By kind permission of Major Radcliffe and Officers the Band of the 33rd Burma Infantry played selections during the afternoon.

CRICKET.

H.K.C.C. v. THE NAVY.

The above match was played on New Year's Day and, after an interesting and enjoyable game, resulted in a win for the Club by eleven runs. An attempt was made to begin the match at 10.30 but, as usual, there were many late-comers and it was ten minutes past eleven when McKinlay sent down the first ball for the Navy. Ward won the toss and Radcliffe and Maitland opened the batting, while Fitch was the other bowler. Maitland left without scoring and W. Dixon partnered Radcliffe. By steady play the score was taken to 38, when Radcliffe was caught for a patient 13. He had the misfortune to hurt his foot, one of Fitch's fast ones hitting him on the instep, and this unfortunate circumstance doubtless handicapped him a good deal. Towards the end of his innings he was obliged to get a man to run for him and his foot became so painful that he was unable to field. Fawcett followed but lost Dixon's company at 40. J. T. Dixon filled his brother's place and the score was taken to 57 before Fawcett was bowled by Fitch. Ward succumbed to the first ball he received, a fast bowler, and Rimington came in. The last-comer played excellent cricket and, with Dixon also playing well, the score was taken to 89 before

the latter was "c. and b." Smith, who followed stayed in with Rimington till 1 o'clock. After Tiffin Smith was bowled for a capital 17 and W. E. Dixon succeeded him. He did not stay long, however, and Powell took his place. In the meantime, Rimington had continued to play excellent cricket and his invaluable innings was not brought to a close until the score had reached the respectable total of 146. Too much praise cannot be given to Rimington for his really good display, and he was undoubtedly the saviour of his side. Towards the end of his innings he also had to requisition the aid of a runner on account of lameness. With no addition to the score, Cooper, the last man, was caught and the innings thus terminated for a total of 146. The Club batting was disappointing on the whole and Rimington and J. T. and W. Dixon were the only men to do themselves justice. The fielding was certainly not up to the standard expected of the Navy and the bowling showed signs of wear—doubtless New Year festivities had something to do with both these failings.

It was generally thought that the Club total was hardly big enough for the Naval men and, under normal circumstances, it is probable that it would not have been so. However in this department of the game, also, signs of more than ordinary dissipation were not wanting, and men usually safe for runs were dismissed at small odds. Garde and Pringle were the first pair of batsmen and J. T. Dixon and Powell started the bowling. Garde played well and looked like making a big score, but Pringle was palpably "under the weather." Having made 22 out of 33, by excellent cricket, Garde was clean bowled by W. Dixon who had superseded his brother, and Moore came in. The last comer was also out of form and did not stay long. In the meantime, Pringle was beaten and bowled by Rimington, who had displaced Powell, and Bedwell followed. Those who remembered many excellent innings played by Bedwell a few seasons ago were prepared to see some good batting; it must be said at once, however, that their expectations were not at all fulfilled and the new-comer showed no signs of his old form and, though he scored 12 runs, there was but little skill displayed in the getting of them. Blair hit hard for a somewhat lucky 12 but no one else did much, and the innings closed for the poor total of 103—43 behind the Club's total. The Club fielding was good on the whole but inability to hold a catch was again apparent in certain quarters. W. Dixon bowled uncommonly well and took 5 wickets for 19. The innings closed at 4.0 and the Club went in again for 40 minutes' batting. Two wickets fell quickly but W. E. Dixon and Cooper played well and took the score to 79 without being separated. Both hit hard and well, especially perhaps the former, who made the top score of the match. The Naval fielding was again at fault, in fact it was worse in the second innings than the first and several catches were missed. Garde did not put on his best bowlers and, indeed, this innings did not appear to be taken at all seriously by the Naval team. Altogether the game was an enjoyable one, the chief feature of which was the prowess of the Dixon family. By the kindness of the Admirals and Officers, the massed bands of the fleet, under Bandmaster Ashley, played an excellent selection, and the match was graced by the presence of a fair sprinkling of ladies. The following are the full scores and analysis:

H.K.C.C.

	First Innings.	Second Innings.
Capt. Radcliffe, E.E., c		
Blair, b Fitch	13	
F. Maitland, c Mahon, b		
Mackinlay	0	b Bedwell
W. Dixon, c Blair, b Fitch	25	
Capt. Fawcett, R.A., b		
Fitch	10	
J. T. Dixon, c and b Mac-		
kinlay	27	
A. G. Ward, b Fitch	0	
J. T. Rimington, S.F., c		
Raymond, b Mahon	43	
Lt. H. W. Smith, R.A., b		
Mahon	17	
W. E. Dixon, c and b		
Bedwell	0	not out
S. Powell, not out	4	c Garde, b Mahon
C. E. Cooper, c Moore,		0
b Bedwell	0	not out
Extras	7	Extras
Total	146	Total

THE NAVY	
R. B. G. de, R.N., b W. Dixon	22
C. H. McPringle, R.N., b Rimington	11
G. Moore, l.b.w., b Rimington	3
lt. Bedwell, R.N., c Powell, b W. Dixon	12
Lt. Bird, R.M.L.I., b W. Dixon	8
Lt. Blair, R.N., run out	12
Lt. Raymond, R.N., b W. Dixon	6
A. W. Mackinlay, R.N., b W. Dixon	5
Lt. Toulmin, R.M.L.I., b J. T. Dixon	1
Lt. Mahon, R.N., not out	9
E. W. Fitch, R.N., c Ward, b J. T. Dixon	4
Extras	10
Total	103

BOWLING ANALYSIS.

H.K.C.C.

First Innings.		Second Innings.	
O.	M.	R.	w.
Mackinlay	12	3	41
Fitch	16	2	39
Toulmin	10	3	23
Blair	5	3	5
Mahon	5	—	15
Bedwell	3.2	17	2
Raymond	—	—	4
Moore	—	—	4
			21
THE NAVY.			
J. T. Dixon	10.4	1	25
Powell	9	1	36
Rimington	6	1	15
W. Dixon	12	4	19

H.K.C.C. v. M.E.G. MOORE'S NAVAL XI.

It was originally arranged that the Club should play H.M.S. *Blenheim*, but, as the latter found it impossible to raise an XI, Mr. G. Moore kindly got up a team composed of men from various ships in the harbour and an enjoyable, but unexpectedly one-sided, game was the result, on the 3rd inst. The Club apparently had a strong side and it was generally thought that they would have no difficulty in defeating their opponents; however, the glorious uncertainty of the game was once more manifested, and the Naval team gained the easiest of victories by 89 runs. The Club won the toss and batted first. W. E. and J. T. Dixon opened the batting and Broadbent and Toulmin bowled. W. E. Dixon left at 7, and W. Dixon took his place. The score was taken to 21 when J. T. was well caught by Mahon in the slips. Fawcett again failed and Maitland gave little trouble, though he stayed in some time. W. Dixon was playing very well and had scored 21 when he was unfortunate enough to be given out, caught at the wicket off his leg! Fanshawe hit up a useful 23, but none of the others did much, and the innings closed for a paltry 86. Some of the men had rather bad luck—notably W. Dixon—but the poor total was chiefly due to bad batting. Toulmin and Mahon—who superseded Broadbent—bowled well, the former taking 6 wickets for 41 and the latter 4 for 17.

The Naval XI began batting with Toulmin and Pringle, and W. and J. T. Dixon started the bowling. Toulmin was c. and b. off the first ball sent down, but Moore and Pringle took the score to 22 before the former was beautifully bowled by W. Dixon for 16. The next two wickets fell quickly, and with four good wickets down for 44, it looked to be anybody's game. On Gouldsmith joining Pringle, however a determined stand was made, and, despite several changes in the bowling, the Club total was passed without further losses. Indeed, it was not until the score had reached 105 that Pringle's invaluable and well-played innings of 43 was brought to a close by another beautiful ball of W. Dixon's. Gouldsmith continued to hit hard and well, till, though he had played a great game for his side, he was eventually disposed of for a brilliant 64, which contained two 6's and eight 4's. Mahon and Money gave some trouble, but the innings closed for 175. The Club fielding was by no means good, and, as usual, catches were missed. W. Dixon was again the most successful bowler and took 5 wickets for 54 runs. With rather over an hour left for play, the Club went in again and certainly did better than at their first attempt, as they succeeded in making 118 for 7 wickets before the bell rang at 5 o'clock. This improvement was mainly due to an excellent innings of 53 by Fawcett, and it was pleasant to see his return to form after a somewhat protracted period of comparative inactivity. W. Dixon again made double figures—as also did his brother Walter. Constantine was the most successful bowler in this innings, taking 3 wickets for 28, but there was a falling

off in the fielding, due possibly to the absence of Pringle, who had to leave to play in the Rugby football match. Fawcett's finely played innings contained ten 4's, and there were no less than eight 4's in Pringle's excellent 43. The following are the full scores and analyses:—

H.K.C.C.

First Innings.		Second Innings.	
O.	M.	R.	w.
W. E. Dixon, b Toulmin	2	not out	14
J. T. Dixon, c Mahon, b Toulmin	4	l.b.w., b Mahon	8
W. Dixon, c Hardcastle, b Mahon	21	c and b Constantine	13
Capt. Fawcett, R.A., b Toulmin	7	b Constantine	53
F. Maitland (Capt.), l.b.w., b Toulmin	6		
Lt. Fanshawe, R.A., b Mahon	23	c Toulmin, b Mahon	0
A. Mackenzie, b Mahon	0	not out	2
Lt. Rimington, S.F., b Mahon	6		
S. Powell, c Hardcastle, b Toulmin	6	tine	18
J. Hooper, b Toulmin	2	run out	4
G. P. Lammert, not out	0	c Goldsmith, b Mahon	0
Extras	10	Extras	6
Total	86	Total (7 wickets)	118

NAVAL TEAM.

Lt. Toulmin, R.M.L.I., c and b W. Dixon	0
C. H. Pringle, R.N., b W. Dixon	43
G. Moore, R.N. (Capt.), b W. Dixon	16
A. Onslow, R.N., b J. T. Dixon	0
Lt. Raymond, R.N., b W. Dixon	4
Lt. Goldsmith, R.N., c Mackenzie, b J. T. Dixon	64
F. M. Broadbent, R.N., c Maitland, b Rimington	7
H. Constantine, R.N., b Powell	0
Lt. Mahon, R.N., run out	10
N. A. K. Money, R.N., b W. Dixon	15
S. N. Hardcastle, R.N., not out	5
Extras	11
Total	175

BOWLING ANALYSIS.

H.K.C.C.

First Innings.		Second Innings.	
O.	M.	R.	w.
Broadbent	4	1	18
Toulmin	11.4	2	41
Mahon	8	2	17
Onslow	—	—	...
Constantine	—	—	6
			28

NAVAL TEAM.

W. Dixon	14	4	54
J. T. Dixon	10	—	51
Fawcett	2	—	14
Rimington	5	—	22
Powell	6	1	16
Mackenzie	2	—	7

CRAIGENGOWER C.C. v. SERGEANTS OF SHERWOOD FORESTERS.

The match between the above was played at the Happy Valley on the 3rd inst. and was won by the Craigengower C.C. by 2 wickets and 70 runs. Appended are the scores and analyses:—

SERGEANTS, SHERWOOD FORESTERS.	
Eric, st Ford, b Brown	0
Westerman, c Asger, b Brown	8
Buckley, c Lammert, b Brown	4
Bedford, b Brown	24
Murphy, c Asger, b Brown	9
Rundall, c Ford, b Hartteam	5
Fielding, c Asger, b Hartteam	6
Brompton, run out	0
Johnson, not out	2
Arthurs, c Stuart, b Hartteam	3
Extras	6
Total	67

R. C. Witchell, c Murphy, b Buckley	10
M. H. Hartteam, l.b.w., b Buckley	21
I. E. Lammert, c Randall, b Fielding	25
E. Ford, c Murphy, b Buckley	2
A. O. Brown, c Bedford, b Fielding	0
R. Pestonji, b Fielding	0
M. E. Asger, not out	25
L. A. Rose, b Fielding	—
R. Basu, not out	23
J. L. Stuart, c Randall, b Fielding	11
Extras	19
Total (8 wickets)	137

L. Vincent, did not bat.

BOWLING ANALYSIS.

SERGEANTS, SHERWOOD FORESTERS.

O.	M.	R.	w.
Brown	10	2	32
Pestonji	5	1	14
Hartteam	4.3	2	16
			3
O.	M.	R.	w.
Murphy	2	—	11
Buckley	13	1	34
Bedford	8	2	33
Fielding	6	—	42

A.O.D.C.C. v. "H" CO., S.F.

Played at Happy Valley on Thursday, and resulted in an easy win for the A.O.D. Appended are the scores:—

A.O.D.C.C.

Lillywhite, b Richardson	54
Bromley, c Kennedy, b Mott	8
Skinner, c Richardson, b Mott	45
Heron, l.b.w., b Mott	2
Woolley, c Barnes, b Richardson	4
McGibbon, not out	11
Bradford, not out	4
Extras	4
Total (for 5 wickets)	132

"H" CO., S.F.

Sainsbury, c McGibbon, b Skinner	0

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Hooper (Captain), Mr. Carter, R.N., Dr. Dartnell, P. P. J. Wodehouse, and O. J. Barnes forwards.

The Hockey Shield match on the 6th inst. between the H.K.H.C. and the Club "A" team ended in a victory for the former by 10 goals to 0.

In the Hockey Shield competition H.M.S. Ocean on the 8th inst. beat the Club 1st XI by 3 goals to 1.

ROYAL HONGKONG YACHT CLUB.

The 4th Club race was resailed on the 3rd inst. in the strongest breeze of the season. So strong was it that most of the yachts except *Dione* were reefed, though, as the wind dropped considerably during the afternoon, it is doubtful whether they scored by their caution.

In the first class *Dione* had another very easy win. The breeze seemed to suit her and she obtained a commanding lead in the first ten minutes. Off Causeway Bay she carried away her jib halyards and the *Vernon* crossed ahead of her while the damage was being repaired, but the next time the boats cross-tacked it was seen that *Dione* had recovered the lead. *Alannah*, though going well, was hopelessly outclassed by the other two and never had a chance.

In the one-design class the *Bonito* showed something of her old form and led to the Channel Rocks the first time round. At the Rocks the *Colleen* making a sharper turn cut her out and got ahead and *Bonito* could never get past her again. The *Bonito* had a reef in while the *Colleen* went out with her whole sail; had the breeze held it seems probable that *Bonito* would have fared better, but even as it was the boats were so close together all through that it is clear that *Bonito* did not lose much by reducing her sail.

In the 2nd class the *Iris* led throughout, but the strong wind just suited the old *Payne*, who saved the time easily.

4TH CLUB RACE.—Official times.

FIRST CLASS.

	H.	M.	S.	Pts.	Total.
1 <i>Dione</i>	...	4	8	35	10 31
2 <i>Vernon</i>	...	4	10	0	4 12
3 <i>Alannah</i>	...	4	14	2	1 16

ONE-DESIGN CLASS.

	H.	M.	S.	Pts.	Total.
1 <i>Colleen</i>	...	4	27	0	10 11
2 <i>Bonito</i>	...	4	28	8	4 5
3 <i>Erica</i>	...	4	28	40	1 11
0 <i>Kathleen</i>	...	4	30	0	15

Kathleen has returned a protest against *Erica*.

SECOND CLASS.

	Net	Total	times.	points.
2 <i>Iris</i>	...	4 44 51	4 44 51	34
3 <i>Maid Marian</i>	4 45 50	4 44 55	10	
1 <i>Payne</i>	...	4 59 44	4 42 49	15

This race was sailed under the old handicap.

On the 4th inst. the 6th Club Race was sailed in a moderate North wind, which gave a plain sailed race all round the course.

In the first class the two new boats again showed their marked superiority over *Alannah*, beating her by some 6 minutes on a 10-mile course. The start was a fluky one, the wind falling to almost a flat calm for two or three minutes. *Dione*, very smartly handled, picked up the wind first and got away with a nice lead from the other two. This lead *Vernon* slowly but surely reduced, but could not quite succeed in the distance in wiping it out altogether and a very fast race ended with another win for *Dione*. In the one-design class the *Bonito*, sailed by Mr. J. Hastings, scored her first win. The *Colleen* led at the first mark, but was caught by the *Bonito* just before the Cust Rock buoy was reached and having to concede the inside berth was passed at the mark and could never get on even terms again. The *Erica* came up fast in the somewhat fluky wind near the line and just beat *Colleen* for 2nd place.

The prevailing wind made the 2nd class race a gift for the *Payne*. The old boat can reach nearly as fast as the best of her class and it is only in windward work that she is markedly inferior to the others: so that though the *Doreen* established a good lead early in the race and continued adding to it throughout neither

she nor the others had a chance of saving their times on the *Payne*.

6TH CLUB RACE.—Official times.

FIRST CLASS.

	H.	M.	S.	Pts.	Total.
1 <i>Dione</i>	...	3	21	10	10 45
2 <i>Vernon</i>	...	3	22	10	4 26
3 <i>Alannah</i>	...	3	27	35	1 16

The totals include the points in the 5th Club Race, *Alannah* having withdrawn her protest.

ONE-DESIGN CLAS.

	H.	M.	S.	Pts.	Total.
1 <i>Bonito</i>	...	3	35	47	10 15
2 <i>Erica</i>	...	3	37	10	4 15
3 <i>Colleen</i>	...	3	37	30	1 12
0 <i>Kathleen</i>	...	3	38	49	15

The totals do not include the points in the 5th Club race, the protest as to which has not yet been decided.

SECOND CLAS.

	H.	M.	S.	Net	times.	Points.	Total.
2 <i>Doreen</i>	...	3	51	0	3 49 30	4	4
3 <i>Maid Marion</i>	3	53	30	3	52 49	1	11
1 <i>Payne</i>	...	3	54	0	3 44 50	10	25
0 <i>Iris</i>	...	3	54	3	3 54 3	34	
0 <i>Chanticleer</i>	3	57	50	3	55 20	1	

This race was sailed under the revised handicap. The totals do not include the points in the 5th Club race.

The committee have decided that the 5th Club Race must be resailed by the one design and 2nd classes on the ground that certain boats were materially prejudiced by the mark boat being near Green Island instead of "off Chung Hua," as it should have been according to the instructions for the race. The objection to the race in the 1st class was withdrawn, so that the result of the original race stands in that class.

The race will be resailed by the one design and 2nd classes to-morrow over course No. 28. One design to start at 1.30 p.m. and 2nd class at 1.40 p.m.

The mark-boat will be placed not more than about half a mile from the South shore of Chung Hua and to the West of Chung Hua Rock.

COMMODORE'S CUP.

The following are the conditions:

For yachts that have competed this season in Club races. Three prizes, but not more than one prize to go to one class. To be sailed on Saturday, the 10th and 17th instant, starting from Police Pier, Tsim Sha Tsui, at 2 p.m. Marks will be awarded as in Club races. In the event of a tie a third race will be sailed under the same conditions.

Course.—Rock about 1 mile South-West of Cowesau, port, 12 miles.

Time limit.—6 p.m.

If insufficient wind to give fair prospect of finishing above course, the following will be substituted by notice posted in the Hongkong Club before noon on the day of the race, and by hoisting a red flag at Police Pier 15 minutes before the race:

Kowloon Rocks, Channel Rock, Meyer's East Buoy, Whi e Buoy South-West of Cust Rocks, Channel Rocks, to starboard, 12 miles.

HANDICAP.

<i>Vernon</i> allows <i>Alannah</i>	...	3	minutes.
<i>Bonito</i> , <i>Colleen</i> , <i>Erica</i> , } Kathleen, Min }	...	6	"
<i>Iris</i>	...	9	"
<i>Maid Marian</i>	...	10	"
<i>Chanticleer</i> , <i>Doreen</i>	...	12	"
<i>Payne</i>	...	19	"

The London Gazette notifies that the King has been graciously pleased to appoint Pierre Frederick Haussler, Esq., to be His Majesty's Consul at Swatow; and Herbert Goffe, Esq., to be His Majesty's Consul at Teng-yueh.

The Singapore Cricket Club had an unsuccessful Christmas tour, losing to Penang by 6 wickets and to Perak by 115 runs. Perak also beat the tourists at football by a penalty goal to nil. Meanwhile, on Christmas and Boxing Days those of the S. C. C. who stayed at home received a Negri Sembilan team and defeated them by an innings and 383 runs, scoring 465 (Noon 117, Taunaford 91, Wishart 79) to 43 and 39. The Negri Sembilan men drew with the R.A. footballers at Singapore (1-1).

ROYAL HONGKONG GOLF CLUB.

CAPTAIN'S CUP AND SILVER MEDAL FOR JANUARY.

The following were the only cards returned:—

CAPTAIN'S CUP.

Mr. C. W. May 86—6 = 80

Mr. E. V. D. Parr 103—15 = 88

23 entries.

POOL.

Mr. C. G. Matthew, R.N., 99—29 = 70

Mr. C. W. May 86—6 = 80

Dr. W. N. Martin, R.N. ... 26—14 = 82

Dr. W. L. Drew, R.N. ... 99—15 = 84

Mr. E. V. D. Parr 103—15 = 88

31 entries.

The quarterly meeting for the MacEwen, Richardson and Bogey Cups takes place from Friday, 9th, to Monday, 12th January, 1903.

HONGKONG CHESS CLUB.

The Hongkong Chess Club is now duly installed at the City Hall, meeting in the further end of the Library there on Monday and Thursday evenings every week. It is proposed to start a sealed handicap tournament this month, all competitors to play level and their handicaps to be made known only at the end of the contest. The entries for this close on the 19th inst., up to when they will be received by Mr. M. J. Danenberg, who has been appointed Hon. Secretary in the place of Mr. P. W. Sergeant, resigned. All new members joining before the 19th inst. will be eligible to compete for the handicap.

THE CHINA MERCHANTS' S.N. CO.

The following memorial of Vice-roy Yuan Shikai in connection with the above-named Company has appeared in favor of the northern native papers and is translated in the Shanghai Mercury:

The China Merchants' Steamship Company has its headquarter in Shanghai with branch offices at all the Treaty ports. Its business is the transportation of passengers and goods. The late Viceroy Li Hung-chang was the pioneer of the enterprise and appointed officials to manage it for many years, which has been accompanied with successful results. In time the late Viceroy Li appointed Taotai Sheng Shieh-hui to be the Company's Director-General, but all important matters should be referred to the High Commissioner of Peiyang. It was agreed that twenty per cent. of the annual profits should be paid to the Government and be remitted to Peiyang to serve as funds for the Peiyang schools and other expenses in connection with the Province. All the foregoing conditions are on record. The Memorialist in the second moon of the current year, when business was at a standstill owing to the great disturbance in the North, appointed Shen Len-hu, Taotai of Tung-yunn, to proceed to Shanghai for the purpose of conferring with the Managers of the Company and devising a plan of reparation, and also investigating the matters of the Company. While recently the Memorialist was passing through Shanghai it happened that Sheng Shieh

THE NEW TIME AT SHANGHAI.

The *N.C. Daily News* has received from Père Froc, S.J., Director of the Sicawei Observatory, a few remarks about the International Time, introduced at Shanghai on the 1st inst. Père Froc begins with the heading: "International time . . . Zone time . . . (Greenwich time)—Our zone should be called 'Chinu Coast zone!'" It is adopted, he says, for the benefit of so large a port as Shanghai. It is for the port that the Observatory takes the trouble of dropping the Bill within half-a-second, and of dropping it twice a day, and is preparing for an additional night signal. Practically, nearly all the navies of the world and the great navigation companies use this time. It is very convenient, in fact indispensable, for railway companies to have one standard of time, as it is for the telegraph companies; and zone time is adopted over the greater part of Europe, with the exception of France, Portugal and Russia, though France and her colonies will probably soon follow; over North America, including Canada, and Japan, and over the British colonies and Dependencies, with the exception of India (where it is prevented by petty jealousies between the chief cities), the Straits Settlements, and Hongkong. Under the new system we shall have the same time as the Philippines and West Australia, and shall be exactly one hour behind Japan.

To take the 8-hour from Greenwich meridian is especially suited, as we have said already, for the Chinu coast. It passes half-way between Foochow and Wenchow, through Hangchow, near Chinkiang, through Kiaochou and Shantiaokuan, and across the Gulf of Pechili. The following changes will have to be introduced:—

Place.	Minutes.	Place.	Minutes.
Switow	14 fast	Weihaiwei	8½ late
Amoy	8	Chefoo	5½ late
Foochow	3	Taku	8 fast
Wenchow	2½ late	Tientsin	12 "
Ningpo	6	Peitaiho	3 "
Hangchow	½ "	Shantiaokuan	0
Shanghai	6	Port Arthur	5½ late
Chinkiang	3½ fast	Wuha	6½ fast
Tsingtao	1 late	Kiukiang	15½ "

THE FRENCH TROOPS AND LOOT.

The *France Militaire* publishes some extracts from the report of General Voyron on the looting by the French troops in China, in which he states that there were only some individual cases of looting difficult to prevent, but afterwards severely dealt with; and that on the whole the behaviour of the French troops was better than that of the troops of other nations. The march from Tientsin was very rapid, and the French troops arrived under the walls of Peking almost totally unprovided with food, and with insufficient covering for the night, the want of both food and night-clothing having been already felt on the line of march. Most of the houses were abandoned, and what was found in them in the shape of food and bedding was appropriated for the general use of the troops, but as soon as the inhabitants returned nothing was taken officially without a proper receipt being given. No doubt some small objects were taken by individual soldiers which was scarcely to be wondered at, considering the bad example of other troops! It should, however, be added that the inhabitants had taken away or hidden most of the portable things of value, and that perhaps their greatest losses were due to marauding bands of Chinse, who knew best where to find the hidden objects. With regard to the looting of the palace of Prince Li by the French missionaries, assisted by their native converts and the French soldiers and sailors stationed at the Poitang, each soldier and sailor received a cheque, payable in France, for 2,000 francs from the missionaries for their services. The next morning early some of their comrades stationed elsewhere, hearing of what had been done, came and took some ingots of silver away from the Li Palace on their own account and afterwards sold them, no doubt at a very considerable discount, to a Frenchman in Peking, who gave cheques for them. The looting was not authorised by General Frey, and he felt that it would give a great impetus to looting in general if he allowed the cheques in

either of the above cases to remain in the hands of the individuals who had received them, and he therefore ordered them to be paid into a fund for the general benefit; and this was done by the soldiers, but the sailors refused to do it. General Voyron, in his report, justifies the looting of the Li Palace on the ground that Prince Li was one of the chief instigators of the Boxer rising. With regard to the French officers, they in common with the officers of other nations took some small objects from Peking as curios, of which the intrinsic value was very trifling. General Frey had a number of boxes (of loot) among his luggage, but these were intended for certain authorities in Paris or for the national museums. General Frey had arranged the matter with the consent of the French Minister in Peking; and General Voyron believes that the various persons, directors of museums and others, concerned had already been informed of the approaching arrival of the objects.

NEWS FROM CHILE.

The recent home newspapers published some very interesting news concerning the Republic of Chile, stating that the British Minister, Mr. Lowther, had forwarded a long report to the British Foreign Office on the situation of this Republic. He says that since the dispute between Chile and Argentina has been settled, the Chilean Government has devoted all spare funds to the materials for the construction of railways, harbour, and other useful works. Confidence has again been established. The foreign capital will be sufficient, and the work hitherto suspended has since been given a new impulse. The new laws promulgated, especially those referring to alcohol, demonstrate an earnest tendency on the part of the Government, which is determined to repress intemperance with all severity, by imposing severe punishment on the offenders. In short, the Minister, Mr. Lowther, declares that Chile has started a new era of peace, progress, and labour, which will be immensely favourable to the whole of the South American continent.

Chile is one of the most prosperous and best organised countries of South America. Its population amounts, according to the last census, to 3,05,000 inhabitants. There are actually 45,000 Europeans, of whom 6,240 are British. This influx of foreigners is due to the good order which prevails in the public administration, guaranteeing welfare and personal safety; and to the natural richness of the country, which fully repays all honest labour by its beneficial climate, suitable for any conditions. It is situated between parallels 19°-56° South latitude, and presents a great variety of climates. Its boundaries, from N. to S., embrace an extent of 4,230 kilometres of longitude and its width from the Pacific Ocean to the highest range of mountains in the South varies between 170 and 400 kil. Its total extent is 724,712.09 kil., much larger than any European country with the exception of Russia.

For transportation of silver and copper, which abound on the north of the Republic, and the various agricultural and industrial products from the centre and the south, means of communication have been greatly increased. The railroads so far extend to 4,642 kil. of which 2,186 belong to the Government and the rest to private companies. The majority of the latter are composed of English capitalists. It is proposed to construct shortly more than double the lines already stated.

One of the principal businesses of the country is in saltpetre, which is used as a manure on the exhausted European fields. In 1900 the production reached 32,778,247 Spanish quintales (cwt.), of which 31,741,292 were exported. From the 15th of May, 1901, up to the same date in 1902 the following amount of saltpetre was sent to different parts:—Great Britain, 10,000 tons; Hamburg, 455,000; United States, 200,000; Belgium, 150,000; Dunkirk, 100,000; Rotterdam, 83,000; various ports, 100,000; which gives a grand total of 1235,000 tons.

It is reported that the health of M. Lessar, the Russian Minister at Peking, will probably not permit of his resuming his post at the Chinese capital. M. Lessar is in his 52nd year.

TUNG FU-HSIANG'S MOVEMENTS.

The *N.C. Daily News* publishes the following in its "Notes on Native Affairs":—

A Kansu military officer in Shanghai at present engaged in applying for arms and ammunition, etc., for the forces of the Provincial Commander-in-Chief of Kansu, has received news from Kunming, the headquarters of that official, to the effect that the ex-General Tung Fu-hsiang's emissaries have succeeded in almost undermining the whole fabric of the military organisation of Kansu province. It is reported in consequence that whenever Tung Fu-hsiang should feel inclined to raise the standard of rebellion, he will be joined by every soldier in the province who is native born to the soil, for it is a well-known fact in the North-western provinces that Tung Fu-hsiang has always been considered as a hero by his fellow provincials of Kansu—not even excepting the Mussulmans, a certain numerous section of whom are his faithful allies. His "martyrdom," as it is designated by the people of Kansu, at the hands of the foreign Powers—it should be noted that the Empress Dowager is not blamed at all—has made Tung Fu-hsiang a still greater hero in the eyes of the populace of the Northwest, especially amongst the soldiery, so that the task of Tung's emissaries in enticing them to promise their support "when the time arrives" has not been a hard one at all. Latest despatches further state that a large number of military officers, natives of Kansu, who still command troops under the Viceroy of Shen-Kau, have also pledged themselves to join Tung's standard. Those who know how matters stand in Kansu do not hesitate to declare that, if that ex-General is to be crushed, the task will have to be done by the troops of other provinces and not by those of Kansu, who are exceedingly likely to join *en masse* their hero when he begins his march on Peking in another attempt to "drive the Western barbarians into the sea." In the meanwhile, reports have arrived at Lanchow, the provincial capital of Kansu, from Ninghsia, near the boundaries of the Alashan Mongols, stating that the notorious ex-Prince Tuan is in constant communication with Tung Fu-hsiang, and that the former is only waiting for his son, the ex-Heir Apparent's, arrival from Peking to declare his intentions to the world. It is also stated that ex-Prince Tuan has openly boasted that he will have 50,000 Mongol troops at his back when he marches against Peking through the Great Wall, while Tung Fu-hsiang invades the capital by way of Shansi province.

HONGKONG.

A Chinese woman fell from the roof of a house in Wing Kut Street on Friday morning, and was killed.

A fire occurred in Kowloon City on Friday afternoon, involving the destruction of two Chinese houses. The exact nature of the damage is not yet known.

On Friday, at the Police Court, a coolie was sentenced to six weeks' hard labour for attempting to steal a brass "secure" rod, value \$15, from H M.S. Ocean.

The visitors to the City Hall Library and Museum for the week ending 3rd January were 314 non-Chinese and 66 Chinese to the former, and 68 non-Chinese and 3,317 Chinese to the latter institution.

Kwok Li Mui (31), a married woman, was sentenced to three months' hard labour at the Police Court on the 5th inst. for cruelty to her ten-year-old son. She bound the boy's wrists with a rope which she fastened to a nail in the wall, then beat him with a bamboo and scorched him all over the head and face with a lighted wick.

The police are investigating a peculiar case of supposed food poisoning that occurred at 33, Mosque Street on New Year's Eve. A party of eight, including the six inmates of the house and two visitors, sat down to supper, and very shortly afterwards all were seized with violent internal pains, accompanied by vomiting. With one or two the attack was so acute as to cause insensibility, but not all were affected alike. The police were informed by some neighbours and the sufferers were removed to hospital, where they are doing well. No explanation of the strange affair is yet to hand.

The New Year has brought with it a rise in the price of almost everything in the Colony, so far, at least, as foodstuffs and liquors are concerned. The low dollar is blamed.

On the 29th ult. P. C. Counsell is to be presented with the Belilos Medal and \$25 and the Royal Humane Society's Medal for saving life in the harbour during a recent typhoon, and on the 2nd inst. a rehearsal parade was held at the Central Police station.

It is notified in the *Gazette* that H.E. the Governor has appointed Colonel W. E. Webb, M.D., R.A.M.C., Principal Medical Officer of the Troops, to be a member of the Sanitary Board in place of Colonel Hughes, R.A.M.C., resigned.

A coolie has been admitted to the Tung Wa Hospital suffering from concussion of the brain, caused by a fall down a thirty-foot flight of steps whilst engaged in building work in Bridges Street on the 2nd inst. A native boy who fell out of a first-floor window at Yaumati on the same night, and who sustained severe injuries was sent to the Government Civil Hospital.

A ship's boat, belonging, we are informed, to H.M.S. *Glory*, was capsized while under sail on the 2nd inst., about 3 o'clock, in the Harbour opposite the Kowloon Docks. A choppy sea was running at the time and a gusty wind prevailed. All the occupants of the boat were thrown into the water. Luckily they were able to keep themselves afloat until they were picked up, the rescue being effected by several boats which were in the neighbourhood.

The Government have granted the use of the Sanitary Board offices at 56, Hollywood Road to the Sanitary staff for the purposes of a reading-room and library. Books of a kind to be useful to the members of the staff in their work will be supplied, and there will be a subscription of \$5 a-head per annum to get suitable periodical literature from home. The use of the rooms is granted for three months, but this time will be extended if it is found that the place is properly taken advantage of. Of this there can be little doubt as the need for such an institution has made itself felt among the staff of the Sanitary Board. A working committee has been appointed to set the scheme a-going.

The master of a fishing-junk and two of his crew arrived in Hongkong from Macao on the 5th inst. and told the police a sad tale of shipwreck. While their fishing-junk, a boat of about 40 piculs, was sailing off Phtoi, on the other side of the island, about 9 o'clock, on the night of 3rd December, she was run into by a big junk and capsized. The master and his crew of four were thrown into the water, but managed to get hold of their upturned craft, to which they clung desperately. Meanwhile the big junk had sailed on into the darkness without attempting to rescue the unfortunate people of the smaller boat. They held on to the bottom of the capsized junk for about six hours before being picked up, and when at 3 o'clock next morning a fishing-boat hove alongside two of the number were found to be missing, having been washed off by the heavy sea which was running. The three survivors were taken to Macao and reached Hongkong as described. Their boat was picked up at Aplichau.

Mr. Droeza, Consul-General in Hongkong for the Netherlands wishes to inform us that the Governor-General of Netherlands India has decreed that "all ships or vessels arriving from Hongkong or having called at this port are subject in Netherlands-India to a quarantine of ten days from the date of departure from this port or since the last case of plague on board. Importation is temporarily prohibited of animal refuse, claws and hoofs, animal or human hair, bristles, hides which are untreated and which are salted or cured with arsenic, raw wool, rags and bags or sacks which have already been used, coming from Hongkong or transhipped at this port. As it is temporarily prohibited to import from Hongkong to Netherlands-India tapestry and used embroideries unless they are transported as personal baggage or in consequence of change of residence." A Government Notification was also issued on the 8th inst. stating that telegraphic information had been received from H.B.M. Consul at Batavia of Hongkong being declared plague-infected.

H. M. S. *Albion* returned from a cruise on New Year's Day.

Mr. F. D. Bareto has been recognised as Vice-consul for Mexico in Hongkong, in succession to the late Mr. A. J. Do Rosario.

Police Sergeants A. C. Langley and W. Cameron have been appointed Inspectors of Nuisances at Aberdeen and Stanley respectively, with effect from the 20th ult.

The return of communicable diseases in Hongkong during the week ending 3rd inst. was two cases of plague (Chinese), both fatal, and one case of enteric fever (Japanese), fatal.

The police reported on the 8th inst. that an explosion of dynamite bombs occurred on Wednesday in a house at 33, Wongkoktsui, in the Yaumati district, damaging the premises but injuring no one.

The A.D.C. has abandoned its idea of staging the musical comedy *His Excellency*, but will put on *His Excellency the Governor*—a comedy which has been played here by the Dallas Company—next month. We believe that the impossibility of getting the Theatre Royal for a long enough period to rehearse for the musical piece led to the abandonment of *His Excellency*—which, it may be remembered, was the piece in rehearsal at the time of the late Queen's death and was then dropped on account of the general mourning.

At the Supreme Court on the 8th inst.—His Honour the Chief Justice, Sir William M. Goodman presiding—Mr. H. E. Pollock, K.C. (instructed by Mr. C. D. Wilkinson), made application that Mr. C. E. Hartnell Beavis, B.A. (Oxon), a solicitor of the Supreme Court of Judicature in England, be admitted to practice as a solicitor of the Supreme Court of Hongkong. His Lordship granted the application and wished Mr. Beavis success in his career in the Colony. Mr. Beavis joins the office of Messrs. Wilkinson & Grist, solicitors.

In connection with the fatal house collapse at 43, Praya East during the typhoon of 2nd August last, when thirteen Chinese were killed, and the magisterial enquiry into which ended in a verdict by the jury of criminal negligence on the part of the architects, Messrs. Leigh & Orange, and the contractor, Mau Wo, all three of whom were committed to trial for manslaughter, the Attorney-General, Sir Henry S. Berkeley, K.C., acting in the capacity of a grand jury, has decided not to file an indictment against the parties.

Pollard's Lilliputian Opera Company's season here has been changed somewhat. It has now been definitely decided that the company will perform in Hongkong for a short season of two weeks only, opening on or about the 3rd February, 1903. The first production will be *The Belle of New York*, in which the clever artists scored such a phenomenal success in America—and here, we may add, *Paul Jones*, *La Mascotte*, *Pinafore*, *Gaiety Girl*, &c., will follow in quick succession. We hear on good authority that the company brings a full Filipino operatic orchestra. This will, if possible, add more to the Lilliputians' popularity.

Hongkong people's experience of entertainments of the cinematographic kind has during the past year or so been such that it is little wonder if they regard them with a doubting eye and their hands tightly clasped on the dollars, but after all it is a mistake to let resentment prevail when such a good show is come amongst us as that which was given on the 8th inst. in the Theatre Royal. The proprietary interest belongs to Mr. T. J. Stevenson, a gentleman who has been associated with the business since its invention and who understands it from top to bottom. In North China the entertainment was received well wherever Mr. Stevenson went. Judging from last night's reception it bids fair to have an equally favourable season here. The instrument is a first-class one, and the pictures which it threw on the screen were clear and distinct, while at the same time of a most interesting character.特别 appreciated were the scenes descriptive of the Coronation festivities, and the Chinese views were quite a novelty. Among other notable trips up which the Bioscope carried the spectators were a voyage across the Atlantic on the *Kronprinz Wilhelm*, and a ride on the St. Go-hard express through the famous Wassen loops. The comic pictures, of which there was abundance, kept the audience greatly amused.

MISCELLANEOUS.

The Imperial authorities are thinking of engaging a foreign architect for the new Peking University building.

Foreign boots, hats, and other articles of clothing have been ordered at Tientsin for Peking officials.

Dr. T. Masao and Mr. J. Stewart Black have been appointed Judges of the "Dika Court," Siam, the final Court of Appeal.

The China Navigation Company, Limited (Messrs. Butterfield & Swire, agents), advertise reduced passage rates to Manila. A single saloon passage costs \$20, and a return \$35.

The new premises of the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank on the Kobe Bund were opened with much ceremony on the 22nd ult., Mr. J. C. Hall, H.M. Consul, making a speech which was responded to by the Manager Mr. R. Home Cook.

An Army Order announces that the King has been graciously pleased to approve of the Royal Welsh Fusiliers being permitted to bear the distinction "Peking, 1900," upon the regimental colours, in recognition of services rendered in North China.

No mail matter can at present be sent from Japan via Siberia. It appears that some time ago the Japanese Department of Communications received official notice from the Russian Administration to the effect that mails would not be conveyed by the Trans-Siberian route. Formerly, though regular mails were not despatched from Kobe letters bearing "Via Siberia" were accepted and forwarded to Port Arthur; but now even this cannot be done.

The Director of Sicawei Observatory, Shanghai, notifies us that on January 1st, 1903, and after, the time-bell, in Shanghai harbour, French Settlement, will be dropped at noon of the 16th international time-zone (China coast time), i.e., 5 minutes 56 seconds 7 tenths later than formerly. This time has already been legalised in the Philippines and differs exactly by one hour from Japan standard time. A previous signal will be given 5 minutes before noon.

In a recent report on the trade of the Regency of Tunis, the British Consul-General states that the consumption of tea is small and the duty is high. The natives consume a certain amount of green tea, but the use of tea among the Europeans is growing rapidly. "Five o'clock tea" is becoming common. At present the French know little of other than China teas at a very high price, 5 francs per half kilo. 3s. 7½d. per lb. English being the usual retail quotation. A development in this trade seems well within the reach of ordinary effort and attention on the part of sellers.

One of four cases of suspected plague which were detected among the operatives of the Gassed Yarn Spinning Company in Tokio was declared to be genuine plague on the 26th ult. Another infected operative died, and on the same day a fresh case was discovered and declared to be plague. Seven dead rats were afterwards found on the premises of the company. The authorities in Osaka, as a precaution against plague, have ordered the destruction of all rats, especially those in the spinning mills. Measures will be vigorously enforced in order to clear the city before the influx of visitors to the Exhibition.

A *Kobe Chronicle*'s correspondent writes under date Vladivostock, December 15:—"The Exchange Committee here is in receipt of instructions from the Department of Finance at St. Petersburg, to select from among the prominent residents a special Committee and Sub-Committee to assist in perfecting the details in connection with the 'free-zone harbour' at the port of Vladivostock, authorized by the Minister of Finance, M. de Witte, during his recent visit to the port." The *Kobe Chronicle* comments as follows:—"Japan will have to be on the alert if she intends to make any of her ports free, for if similar action be taken at Dalian as is proposed at Vladivostock, Japan will find her opportunity of acting as a great storehouse for the Far East to be gradually slipping away from her. Nothing seems to have been heard since their formation of those Societies for promoting the establishment of free ports in Japan. Indeed the majority of Societies in this country appear to be still-born."

The U.S. marines at Cavite are to be relieved by a draft of 300 men from Brooklyn.

The following appointment has been made at the Admiralty:—Staff-Surgeon J. A. Moon, to the Glory, for the Yekobama Sick Quarters, to date December 9.

The Rev. G. D. Iliff, M.A., of the Church of England Mission, Tientsin, has been appointed by the late Archbishop of Canterbury to be Bishop of Shantung. This is probably the deceased Primate's last appointment.

Mr. A. Ireland, who recently paid a visit to Hongkong, is to write a series of articles for the Times on the various Colonies he had visited. Mr. Ireland is said to have received a concession of 20,000 acres in British North Borneo.

Among the cargo brought to Manila by the U.S. transport Sherman (which, by the way ran on an uncharted reef and stove in her bows off the Philippines) was a consignment of nearly two and a half millions of gold dollars.

The Penang Municipality expected to have a balance of at least £4,000 to carry forward to this year. Mr. Hallifax, the President, declared at a recent meeting that they were "absolutely safe."

The Ocean, first-class battleship, which is nearing the end of her first commission, served on the Mediterranean and China stations, is to undergo repairs and overhaul at Hongkong Dockyard, preparatory to a second commission in the Far East, according to the home papers,

The steamers Yingchow and Minna collided on the 24th ult. about thirty miles north of Chefoo. The Minna sank in twenty minutes after the collision. Two Chinese were missing. The Yingchow is a small Russian steamer of 85 tons, running between Port Arthur and Chefoo. The Minna was also a Russian steamer of 275 tons, and ran between Port Arthur and Chefoo. The former steamer is believed to be owned by the Chinese Eastern Railway Company.

A New York telegram states that Rear-Admiral Philip H. Cooper has been designated by the Secretary of the Navy to succeed Admiral Frank Wilds on the Asiatic station. Rear-Admiral Cooper is the junior rear-admiral of the Navy, having been recently appointed from captain. Previous to his promotion he was in command of the forces of the Navy in Samoa. Admiral Wilds, whom he succeeds, has been examined and pronounced by a medical board unfit for active service. He will be retired upon his arrival in the United States.

The following cablegram has been received by the American Chamber of Commerce from Mr. Brewster Cameron, who is in Washington in the interest of legislation:—The Allied Chambers of Commerce of Manila are seeking enactment for by Congress: "Washington, December 30, 1902.—The American Chamber of Commerce: The Senate is showing determined and unexpected opposition to the Philippine Tariff bill, and it is doubtful at this time if the seventy-five per cent. reduction will pass. The prospects for currency legislation at this session of Congress appear bright."

The Battambong correspondent of the Siem Observer, wrote on the 5th ult.:—"The 'Sanctuary' at the French Consulate for debtors and runaway servants is being broken up and the inmates are dispersed. Possibly the higher authorities have intervened, or the refugees are no longer welcome. The greater part have been sent to Nom-penn." The same correspondent observes:—"It is not very surprising, that the traders of this place dreaded (in the past) the idea of the town being handed over to the French when one considers the taxes imposed on business men in French Cambodia. Shops there are licensed in six grades, varying from a first-class license, costing \$280, to a sixth-class of \$36 per annum. In addition to this the manager or proprietor is further mulcted in from \$3 to \$8. The purchaser of tobacco grown in French Cambodia must pay a tax of \$20 per picul (Chinese). In general it is the tax which is the most costly part of the business, as tobacco can be bought at \$30 per picul. At Saigon a customs duty of 80 per cent. per 1.0 kilos is laid on goods imported direct from Europe. Goods imported from Singapore are charged 100 per cent. per 100 kilos. On goods landed in bond for Siamese territory a duty of 20 per cent. is imposed. English long-staple shirtings, etc., are charged 3 cents per yard, the poll tax ranges upward from \$13 to \$80.

With reference to the recent Ostasiatische Lloyd telegram affirming it to be quiet in Kansu and the rumours about Tung Fu-hsiang to be incorrect, the Shanghai Mercury says:—We believe that this report has been circulated by the Chinese officials merely to deceive, for officials that are friendly towards foreigners are of opinion that the situation in Kansu is far from hopeful. We have now another warning from Lao-ho-kow, from a correspondent who has every opportunity of knowing what is going on. He writes under date the 4th of December:—"The following telegrams have just been received here:—Ping-liu-fu, Kansu. A crisis seems imminent, the officials are powerless to act. The Taotai has suppressed rumours but circumstances have not altered. There is cause for grave apprehension if Tung Fu-hsiang is not suppressed. The above telegrams are very important, showing the situation up there. The officials say that a truce has been patched up until the spring, but, nevertheless, they are afraid that something is going to happen."

COMMERCIAL.

CAMPHOR.

HONGKONG, 9th January.—No arrivals.

SUGAR.

HONGKONG, 9th January.—Holders want to clear their stocks before the Chinese New Year, and the prices are consequently declining.
Shekloong, No. 1, White.....\$8.10 to \$8.15 per
Do. 2, White.....7.60 to 7.65 "
Shekloong, No. 1, Brown ... 6.05 to 6.10 "
Do. 2, Brown ... 5.85 to 5.90 "
Swatow, No. 1, White.....8.00 to 8.5 "
Do. No. 1, White.....7.45 to 7.50 "
Do. 1, Brown ... 5.75 to 5.80 "
Do. 2, Brown ... 5.60 to 5.65 "
Foochow Sugar Candy12.15 to 12.20 "
Shekloong9.60 to 9.65 "

RICE.

HONGKONG, 9th January.—The advance in prices continues, holders being firm.
Saigon, Ordinary\$3.45 to 3.50
" Round, Good quality5.20 to 5.25
" Long5.40 to 5.45
Siam, Field mill cleaned, No. 23.60 to 3.65
" Garden, " No. 14.55 to 4.60
" White5.81 to 5.85
" Fine Cargo6.00 to 6.05

MISCELLANEOUS IMPORTS.

HONGKONG 2nd January.—Amongst the sales reported during the week are the following:

	per bale
Bombay—Nos. 10 to 20, ...	\$ 86.00 to \$130.00
English—Nos. 16 to 24, ...	114.00 to 120.00
" 22 to 24, ...	120.00 to 128.00
" 28 to 32, ...	136.00 to 142.00
" 38 to 42, ...	155.00 to 170.00

COTTON PIECE GOODS—

	per piece.
Grey Shirtings—6 lbs.	2.30 to 2.40
7 lbs.	2.45 to 2.70
8.4 lbs.	3.30 to 3.92
9 to 10 lbs.	4.00 to 5.50
White Shirtings—54 to 56 rd. 2.80 to 3.00	
58 to 60 " 3.45 to 3.75	
64 to 66 " 4.04 to 5.50	
Fine5.73 to 8.00	
Book-folds 4.75 to 7.30	
Victoria Lawns—12 yards ...	0.78 to 1.50
T-Cloths—6lbs. (32 in.), Ord'y. 2.00 to 2.30	
7lbs. (32 "), " 2.35 to 2.75	
6lbs. (32 "), Mexs. 2.40 to 2.55	
7lbs. (32 "), " 2.95 to 3.50	
8 to 8.4 oz. (36 in.) 3.30 to 3.90	
Drills, English—40 yds. 13 $\frac{1}{2}$ to 14 lbs. 4.75 to 7.30	

FANCY COTTONS—

	8 lbs.
Turkey Red Shirtings—1 $\frac{1}{2}$ to 1.50 to 4.85	

Brocades—Dyed— to —

DAMASKS—

	per yard
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Chintzes—Assorted	— to —
Velvets—Black, 22 in	0.27 to 0.60

Velveteens—18 in.	0.23 to 0.28
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Handkerchiefs—Imitation Silk 0.31 to 5.00	per dozen
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Woolenens—	per yard
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Spanish Stripes—Sundry chocks 0.65 to 2.25	
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Habit, Med., and Broad Cloths 1.25 to 3.00	
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Long Ells—Scarlet, 7-10 lbs. 0.85 to 8.25	per piece
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Assorted 7.00 to 9.40	
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Camlets—Assorted 15.50 to 34.00	
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Lastings—30 yd., 31 inches } 12.50 to 17.00
Assorted —

Orleans—Plain 10.00 to —

Blankets—8 to 12 lbs. 0.65 to 0.80

Fine quality, 1.40 to 2.10

METALS— per picul

Iron—Nail Rod 4.70 to —

Square, Flat, Round Bar (Eng. 4.70 to —

Swedish Bar 4.75 to —

Small Round Rod 5.10 to —

Hoop & to 11/2 in. 0.40 to —

Wire, 16/25, 0.20 to —

Old Wire Rope 3.50 to —

Lead, L.B. & Co. and Hole Chop 8.40 to —

Australian 8.10 to —

Yellow Metal—Muntz 14/20 oz. 41.00 to —

Vivian's 14/20 oz. 41.00 to —

Elliot's 14/20 oz. 41.00 to —

Composition Nails 61.00 to —

Japan Copper, Slabs 39.00 to —

Tin 88.00 to —

box, per

Tin-Plates 8.30 to —

per cwt. case

Steel & to 2 6.50 to —

SUNDRIES— per picul

Quicksilver 18.0 to —

per box.

Window Glass 5.75 to —

per 10-gal. case

Kerosene Oil 3.00 to —

SHARE REPORTS.

HONGKONG, January 9th, 1903.—A fair general enquiry has been met with during the week under review, but owing to the difficulties of connecting buyer and seller the transactions effected have been very limited in extent.

BANKS.—Hongkong and Shanghai have further improved to \$670 with buyers, after small sales at \$663 to \$669. Loudon quotes £64. Nationals have declined to \$4 sellers.

MARINE INSURANCE.—Unions have been booked at the improved rate of \$470, at which there are further buyers. China Traders continue on offer at \$58. North-Chinas are wanted at Tls. 177 $\frac{1}{2}$, and Yangtze at \$153. Cantons are procurable at \$167 $\frac{1}{2}$.

FIRE INSURANCES.—Hongkongs have further declined to \$327 $\frac{1}{2}$ sellers. China offers at \$84 and \$85 are in strong request at the higher figure.

SHIPPING.—Hongkong, Canton and Macao have been in considerable request, and sales have been effected at from \$36 to \$38, the closing quotation being somewhat easier at \$37 $\frac{1}{2}$ sellers. Indo-Chinas have sold at \$88 and \$87 and some shares are now probably procurable at \$86. China Manilas have sold at \$25 and \$26 and are in further request at the former rate. Douglaston have improved to \$44 buyers. Star Ferries (old) have jumped to \$25 buyers; the new issue is offering at \$15. Shell Transports are in request at £1. 7s. 6d.

REFINERIES.—China Sugars have sold at \$90 and \$89 and close with buyers at \$88. Luzons have been booked at \$12 $\frac{1}{2}$.

MINING.—Panjoms are quiet at \$2 after sales at the rate. Raubs are firmer with buyers at \$7 $\frac{1}{2}$. Charbonnages and Jetibus are unchanged.

DOCKS, WHARVES & GODOWNS.—Hongkong and Whampoa Docks have sold at \$105, at which more shares can be placed. Hongkong and Kowloon Wharves have been booked at \$90 and are further enquired for. New Amoy Docks are quiet at \$40.

LANDS, HOTELS & BUILDINGS.—Hongkong Lands have been disposed of at \$184 and are wanted at the rate. Kowloon Lands can be placed at \$31 $\frac{1}{2}$. West Points are procurable at \$57. Humphreys Estates are in demand at \$12. Hongkong Hotels are enquired for at \$141 after sales at the rate. Orienta Hotels can be placed at \$32 $\frac{1}{2}$, but sellers are holding for higher prices.

COTTON MILLS.—Hongkong Cottons are weak with sellers at \$17. The Northern stocks are unchanged.

MISCELLANEOUS.—Green Island Cement have improved to \$21 $\frac{1}{2}$ buyers. Watsons can still be procured at \$14. Ropes are quiet with probable sellers at \$120. Fenwicks can be procured at \$50. Steam Water-boats have sold at \$11 $\frac{1}{2}$. Providents continue on offer at \$10 after sales at \$9.85 and \$9.90. Watkins are procurable at \$8. Universal Traders have improved to \$2 $\frac{1}{2}$ buyers. China Light and Powers are on offer at \$10. Albambra Cigars have declined to \$400 sellers.

MEMOS.—China-Borneo Company, Limited extraordinary general meeting on the 14th instant. China Provident Loan and Mortgage Co., Ltd., ordinary yearly meeting on the 17th instant; transfer books close on the 15th instant. Hongkong Land Investment and Agency Co., Ltd., ordinary yearly meeting on the 26th instant; transfer books close on the 15th instant. West Point Building Co., Ltd., ordinary yearly meeting on the 26th instant; transfer books close on the 15th instant.

Closing quotations are as follows:—

COMPANY.	PAID UP.	QUOTATIONS.
Banks.—		
Hongkong & S'hai ..	\$125	(\$670, buyers L'don, £64.
Natl. Bank of China		
A. Shares	£8	£24.
B. Shares	£8	£24.
Foun. Shares...	£1	£10, sellers
Bell's Asbestos E. A...	£1	£1, buyers
Campbell, Moore & Co.	\$10	£35.
China-Borneo Co., Ltd	£15	£25, sellers
China Light & Power Co., Ltd	£20	£10, sellers
China Prov. L. & M.	\$10	£10 sellers
China Sugar	\$100	£88, buyers
Cigar Companies—		
Alhambra Limited.	\$500	400, sellers
Philippine Tobacco Invest. Co., Ltd.)	\$50	3, sellers
Cotton Mills—		
Ewo	Tls. 100	Tls. 40.
International	Tls. 73	Tls. 40.
Laou Kung Mow	Tls. 100	Tls. 44.
Soychee	Tls. 500	Tls. 160.
Hongkong	\$100	£17, sellers
Dairy Farm	\$8	£11 sellers
Fenwick & Co., Geo.	\$25	£0.
Green Island Cement	\$10	£2½, buyers
H. & C. Bakery	£50	£40, sellers
Hongkong & C. Gas..	£10	£140, buyers
Hongkong Electric {	\$10	£13.10, sales & buy.
H. H. L. Tramways..	£5	£6.03, sales
Hk. Steam Water boat Co., Ltd.....	\$100	£327.
Hongkong Hotel	\$50	£141, buyers
Hongkong Ice	\$25	£240, sellers
H. & K. Wharf & G...	\$50	£90, buyers
Hongkong Rope.....	\$50	£120.
H. & W. Dock.....	\$50	£207.
Insurance—		
Canton.....	\$50	£167½, sellers
China Fire	\$20	£85, buyers
China Traders'.....	\$25	£58, sellers
Hongkong Fire.....	\$50	£37½, sellers
North China.....	£25	Tls. 177, buyers
Straits	\$20	£1, nominal
Union	\$100	£470, buyers
Yangtze.....	\$80	£133, buyers
Land and Building—		
Hongkong Land Inv	\$100	£18, buyers
Humphreys Estate	\$10	£1, b. yeas
Kowloon Land & B.	\$30	£31, buyers
West Point Building	\$50	£57, sellers
Luzon Sugar.....	\$100	£12½, sales
Manila Invest. Co., Ltd.	\$50	£14.
Mining—		
Charbonnages	Fcs. 250	£6 0, sellers
Jelebu	\$5	£1½ sellers
Punjom	\$10	£2, buyers
Do. Preference...	\$1	75 cents, sellers
Raubs	18	£7½, buyers
New Amoy Dock	\$62	£4.
Oriente Hotel, Manila	\$50	£37½, sellers
Powell, Ltd.....	\$10	£9½, buyers
Robinson Co. Piano, Ltd.	\$50	£50, nominal
Steamship Cos.—		
China and Manila...	\$50	£25, buyers
Douglas Steamship	\$25	nominal
H. Canton and M...	\$50	£44, buyers
Indo-China S. N.	\$15	£37½, sellers
Shel Transport and Trading Co.....	£1	£1.7s. 6d. buy.
Star Ferry.....	\$10	£25, buyers
Tebrau Planting Co...	\$5	£15, sellers
United Asbestos.....	\$5	nominal
Do.....	\$4	£8½, sellers
Universal Trading Co., Ltd	\$10	£155.
Watkins Ltd.....	\$5	£22½, buyers
Watson & Co., A. S...	\$10	£8, sellers
	\$10	£14½ sellers.

VERNON & SMYTH, Brokers.

Shanghai, 31st December (from Messrs. J. P. Bisset & Co.'s Report). The business of the week has been checked by the Christmas holidays, and has been largely confined to cover purchase and sales for the settlement. This has passed off without much difficulty save in the case of Indo-China and Langkat shares. This difficulty we believe is only temporary. BANK.—Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation. There is no local business reported. MARINE INSURANCE.—China Trader's shares are offering at \$58. FIRE INSURANCE.—No local business reported. SHIPPING.—Indo-China S. N. Co. Shares have changed hands at Tls. 61/63 for cash, closing at £2½, and 64½/64½ for March. SUGARS.—China Sugar Refining shares have improved to \$86. Luzons have declined to £12½, closing with sellers. MINING.—Chinese Engineering and Mining shares were placed at Tls. 8.20 for Bear's scrip. DOCKS, WHARVES AND GODOWNS.—S. C. Farnham, Boyd and Co. Business has been done at 190½ cum div., and 178, 173 and 180 ex div., for cash, at 178/180 for January, 183½ for April and 193 for May. Shanghai and Hongkew Wharf shares changed hands at Tls. 310/312½. LANDS.—Shanghai Land Investment Co. There is no change reported. The call of Tls. 80 on the new issue is due to-day. Weibaiwei Land shares are offering. INDUSTRIAL.—Shanghai Gas Co. The call of £1. 90 on the new shares is due to-day. There is no change to report under this head. TUGS AND CARGO BOATS.—No business reported. MISCELLANEOUS.—Shanghai-Sumatra Tobacco shares were placed at Tls. 45. Maatschappij in Langkat shares changed hands at Tls. 165/157½ cum. div. for cash and at 160 ex. div. The market is strong with buyers, owing apparently to a failure to deliver shares due to-day. Hall and Holtz shares were sold at \$35, and Shanghai Telephone shares at Tls. 62. LOANS.—Shanghai and Hongkew Wharf Debentures were sold at Tls. 103.

FOR VICTORIA, B.C.—Olympia (str.), Kaga Maru (str.), Tosa Maru (str.), Pakling (str.).
FOR VANCOUVER.—Empress of China (str.), Tartar (str.).
FOR NEW YORK.—Mogul (str.), Incrudo (str.).
FOR PORTLAND (Or.).—Indrovalle (str.).
FOR AUSTRALIAN PORTS.—Taiyuan (str.).
FOR SINGAPORE, PENANG, AND CALCUTTA.—Nansang (str.).
FOR SINGAPORE AND BOMBAY, VIA COLOMBO.—Peking (str.).
FOR BOMBAY, VIA SINGAPORE AND PENANG.—Ichia (str.).
FOR BOMBAY, VIA SINGAPORE AND COLOMBO.—Hiroshima Maru (str.).

SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES SINCE LAST MAIL.

- January — ARRIVALS.
3. Chusan, British str., from Bombay.
 3. Haitan, British str., from Coast Ports.
 3. Hermann Lerche, Russian str., from Moji.
 3. Hangchow, British str., from Canton.
 3. Kowloon, German str., from Canton.
 3. Kwangse, British str., from Canton.
 3. Michael Jebsen, Ger. str., from Haiphong.
 3. Telemacius, British str., from Saigon.
 3. Tosa Maru, Japanese str., from Shanghai.
 3. Wingsang, British str., from Canton.
 3. Zafiro, British str., from Manila.
 4. Babelsberg, German str., from Moji.
 4. Cassius, German str., from Chinkiang.
 4. Eastern, British str., from Kobe.
 4. Elita Rossack, German str., from Canton.
 4. Goodwin, British str., from Westport.
 4. Maiduru Maru, Jap. str., from Aping.
 4. Peleus, British str., from Shanghai.
 4. Singan, British str., from Shanghai.
 4. Taifu, German str., from Saigon.
 4. Taiwan, British str., from Chefoo.
 4. Thales, British str., from Swatow.
 4. Triton, German str., from Manila.
 4. Taisang, British str., from Shanghai.
 5. Benledi, British str., from Moji.
 5. Bulpses, British str., from Singapore.
 5. Caledonien, French str., from Marseilles.
 5. Koun Maru, Japanese str., from Moji.
 5. Labor, Norwegian str., from Canton.
 5. Taurus, Norwegian str., from Moji.
 5. Trumph, German str., from Haiphong.
 5. Whampos, British str., from Canton.
 6. Airlie, British str., from Sydney.
 6. Amara, British str., from Canton.
 6. Apenrade, German str., from Hoihow.
 6. Bombay, British str., from Yokohama.
 6. Foochow, British str., from Canton.
 6. Hongkong, French str., from Haiphong.
 6. Ischia, Italian str., from Bombay.
 6. Konig Albrecht, Ger. str., from Shanghai.
 6. Szechuen, British str., from Canton.
 6. Telemachus, British str., from Liverpool.
 6. Tsintau, German str., from Bangkok.
 6. Woosung, British str., from Canton.
 6. Yikang, British str., from Swatow.
 6. Sungkiang, British str., from Manila.
 7. Benlomond, British str., from Foochow.
 7. Choyang, British str., from Wuhu.
 7. Daigi Maru, Japanese str., from Tamshui.
 7. Gibraltar, British str., from New York.
 7. Hailong, British str., from Coast Ports.
 7. Huo, French str., from Haiphong.
 7. Kiukiang, British str., from Chinkiang.
 7. Robilla Maru, Japanese str., from Manila.
 7. Temis, Norwegian str., from Manila.
 7. Yuensang, British str., from Mororan.
 8. Benvenue, British str., from Java.
 8. Glengyle, British str., from London.
 8. Haiphong, French str., from Haiphong.
 8. Hinsang, British str., from Hongay.
 8. Lienahing, British str., from Canton.
 8. Rickmers, Brit. str., from Balikpapan.
 8. Shantung, British str., from Singapore.
 8. Sishar, British str., from Saigon.
 9. An Pho, British str., from Saigon.
 9. Feiching, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
 9. Hongbee, British str., from Straits.
 9. Kachidate Maru, Jap. str., from K'notsu.
 9. Shini Maru, Japanese str., from Canton.
 9. Suisang, British str., from Calcutta.
 9. Taishan, British str., from Saigon.
 9. Taishun, Chinese str., from Canton.
 9. Taiwan, British str., from Canton.
 9. Doric, British str., from San Francisco.
 10. Anping Maru, Jap. str., from Coast Ports.
 10. C. Ford. Iaess, Ger. str., from Hamburg.

- 10, Hoihao, French str., from Pakhoi.
 10, Meefoo, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
 10, Olympia, Amer. str., from Tacoma.
January—DEPARTURES.
 3, Ariake Maru, Jap. str., for Kutchinozun.
 3, Bombay Maru, Japanese str., for Chefoo.
 3, Changchow, British str., for Shanghai.
 3, Eros, Norwegian str., for Bangkok.
 3, Frithjof, Norwegian str., for Hoihow.
 3, Hoihow, British str., for Shanghai.
 3, Hokoku Maru, Japanese str., for Uraga.
 3, Loongmoon, German str., for Shanghai.
 3, Pronto, German str., for Hoihow.
 3, Shakano Maru, Japanese str., for Bombay.
 3, Valetta, British str., for Europe.
 3, Victoria, American str., for Moji.
 4, Alacrity, British des.-ves., for Hougay.
 4, Amigo, German str., for Singapore.
 4, Chusan, British str., for Shanghai.
 4, Decima, German str., for Saigon.
 4, Else, German str., for Pakhoi.
 4, Glory, British battleship, for Hongay.
 4, Guthrie, British str., for Kobe.
 4, Hainchi, Chinese str., for Shanglai.
 4, Iltis, German gunboat, for Canton.
 4, Kowloon, German str., for Chinkiang.
 4, Nanchang, British str., for Manila.
 4, Rario, British sloop, for Shanghai.
 4, Shohsing, British str., for Shanghai.
 4, Simonian, Dutch str., for Singapore.
 4, Taishun Chinese str., for Canton.
 4, Talbot, British cruiser, for Hongay.
 4, Wungsang, British str., for Swatow.
 5, Blenheim British cruiser, for Shanghai.
 5, Caledonien, French str., for Shanghai.
 5, Cassins, German str., for Canton.
 5, Goliath, British battleship, for Singapore.
 5, Kwangse, British str., for Shanghai.
 5, Labor, Norwegian str., for Moji.
 5, Nanshan, British str., for Swatow.
 5, Pieriolo, German str., for Manila.
 5, Rosetta Maru, Japanese str., for Manila.
 5, Sanuki Maru, Japanese str., for Kobe.
 5, Shansi, British str., for Shanghai.
 5, Singan, British str., for Hoihow.
 6, Hai'an, French str., for Hoihow.
 6, Holstio, German str., for Saigon.
 6, Kwangtah, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
 6, Michael Jebsen, German str., for Hoihow.
 6, Paoting, British str., for Shanghai.
 6, Peleus, British str., for London.
 6, Taichiow, German str., for Bangkok.
 6, Taisang, British str., for Canton.
 6, Taiwan, British str., for Canton.
 6, Thales, British str., for Swatow.
 6, Tyr, Norwegian str., for Hongay.
 7, Ariel, Norwegian str., for Kobe.
 7, Bombay, British str., for London.
 7, Bulpase, British str., for Nagasaki.
 7, Lenlochy, British str., for London.
 7, Heinrich Menzell, Ger. str., for Hongay.
 7, Hangchow, British str., for Chefoo.
 7, Kiukiang, British str., for Canton.
 7, Konig Albert, German str., for Europe.
 7, Maizuru Maru Jap.str., for Swatow.
 7, Namsang, British str., for Calcutta.
 7, Taichiow, German str., for Bangkok.
 7, Telemachus, British str., for Shanghai.
 7, Whampoa, British str., for Hoihow.
 8, Apenra, Germ. str., for Hoihow.
 8, Benlomond, British str., for London.
 8, China, American str., for San Francisco.
 8, Foochow, British str., for Shanghai.
 8, Goodwin, British str., for Weihaiwei.
 8, Phranang, German str., for Bangkok.
 8, Rainbow, U.S. gunboat, for Manila.
 8, Sungkiang, British str., for Manila.
 8, Sz chuen, British str., for Shanghai.
 8, Themis, Norwegian str., for Canton.
 8, Triumph, German str., for Hoihow.
 8, Yiksang, British str., for Hongay.
 9, Choysaung, British str., for Canton.
 9, Eastern, British str., for Australia.
 9, Hailoong, British str., for Swatow.
 9, Loosok, German str., for Bangkok.
 9, Ningpo, British str., for Moji.
 9, Sabine Rickmers, British str., for Canton.
 9, Sullberg, German str., for Wuhu.
 9, Victoria, American str., for Tacoma.
 9, Zafiro, British str., for Manila.
 10, Au-Pho, British str., for Chemulpo.
 10, Babelsberg, German str., for Amoy.
 10, Humber, British storeship, for Whaiwei.
 10, Koun Maru, Japanese str., for Kobe.
 10, Liemding, British str., for Shanghai.
 10, Meefoo, Chinese str., for Canton.
 10, Rohilla Maru, Japanese str., for Manila.

- 10, Temiya Maru, Japanese str., for Moji.
 10, Woosung, British str., for Shanghai.
 11, Daigi Maru, Japanese str., for Swatow.
 11, Fuching Chinese str., for Canton.
 11, Glengyle, British str., for Shanghai.

PASSENGERS LIST.

ARRIVED.

Per *Valetta*, from Shanghai, for Hongkong, Messrs. C. W. Hintz, D. Daracchini, D. Henichini, M. Barbaroo, C. H. Ross, V. P. Musso, S. Rosate, H. W. Buckland and C. H. V. Wilson; for Penang, Mr. Duncan; for Marseilles via India, Mr. C. H. Allen; for London, Miss M. Campbell.

Per *Haitan*, from Coast Ports, Mr. J. Yarrow and Mr. J. Newbury.

Per *Zafiro*, from Manila, Lieut. P. Andrews, Messrs. B. H. Connell, McCuen, M. P. Hentzleman, M. C. Clove, D. Wolf and M. Peck.

Per *Eastern*, from Kobe, for Australis, Mrs. Knaggs, Mrs. McRae, Messrs. McLera and Gibb.

Per *Chusan*, for Hongkong, from London, Rev. and Mrs. S. G. Tope and two children, Mr. and Mrs. J. Wheeley and three children, Mrs. Pool and three children, Misses Amy Davies and M. G. Denton, Surgeons W. Bastian and J. Thornhill, Messrs. T. Z. Davies, D. Laing, F. Warrington and J. M. Kyle; from Marseilles, Mr. C. Ott; from Bombay, Private J. Willas; from Singapore, Messrs. T. P. Allen, Sirdar Khan and P. Roza; for Shanghai, from London, Mrs. McGee, Messrs. P. Holdsworth, James Sligh, W. Flownan, W. Greenland and W. E. Wade; from Marseilles, Mr. R. H. Mortimore; from Brindisi, Mr. James Dawson; for Yokohama, from London, Mr. and Mrs. Addis, Mr. Addis, Jr.; from Marseilles, Mr. H. E. Fischer.

Per *Glenlochy*, from Shanghai, Messrs. E. V. and A. G. Bethel and E. Griffith.

Per *Caledonien*, for Hongkong, from Bombay, Mr. Jerrazee; from Colombo, Mr. and Mrs. O. Rebur, Messrs. Levet and Sylvestre Botto; from Singapore, Mr. and Mrs. Shigetomi, Miss O. Shiromoto, Mr. Coleaux; from Saigon, Mrs. Clausen, Baron Corvisart, Messrs. Desire, Albert, Dugaet, Prodhomme and Delannoy; for Shanghai, from Fort Said, Mr. T. Kouchkouri; from Colombo, Messrs. Waltherton, Juret, Baelieux, Gouters, Thuray, Bud, Badley, Leger, Lelonguer; for Nagasaki, from Colombo, Rev. Cotrel; for Yokohama, from Colombo, Rev. Montague.

Per *Bombay*, from Shanghai, Messrs. J. H. O'Dowd and J. J. Hatch and child.

Per *Konig Albert*, from Shanghai, for Hongkong, Mrs. Meuseo, Mrs. Rodgers, Mr. and Mrs. Nathan and family, Mrs. Lofinger, Drs. Kettner and Wendt, Messrs. Forst Weber, M. Tabata, M. G. Beru o, R. R. Nucken, H. H. For, O. Schrember, Stabaest, F. Reibe, Thompson, Son Siemmsen, F. A. Rapp and Runners.

Per *Arlie*, from Sydney, &c., Mrs. and Miss McCullough, Mrs. V. B. Duncan, Mrs. K. R. MacDermid, Miss Bryant, Major West, Capt. J. Easton, Messrs. W. Dalauey, S. Levy, C. D. Davies, A. Mason, R. Logan and Oto.

Per *Daigi Maru*, from Tamsui, &c., Mr. Scott.

Per *Beauford*, from Foochow, Dr. J. Avenport.

Per *Rohilla Maru*, from Manila, Mr. and Mrs. Ataydo, Mr. and Mrs. Crano, Mrs. Shelby, Mrs. A. Allen, Mrs. Greey, Mrs. L. Daile, Mrs. H. B. Litt, Mrs. C. J. Hanies, Mrs. Stewart, Miss E. Stewart, Mr. and Mrs. Buukholder, Mr. and Mrs. Shaw, Misses B. Noth, Dennison, McDonald, Pratt and Van Buren, Majors Shelby and Deshon, Capt. Sparrenberger, Messrs. P. Ataydo, C. L. Spethern, D. Frawley, J. K. Amory, E. C. Jones, A. W. Douglas, Coleman, A. H. Bond, Yukansti, D. Braunerker, A. Garrells, J. Williams, R. McGreer and Landry.

Per *Glengyle*, from London, Mrs. Farrow and Capt. Bush.

Per *Suisang*, from Singapore, &c., Mr. J. Angus.

Per *Haiphong*, from Haiphong, Mr. and Mrs. Metetal, Dr. Baetz, Misses Gray and V. do Culleo, Messrs. F. A. Soese, Wilhelm Puches, Bloche, Pimton, Bouget, E. Manheim, E. Fremtel, Choisinet, Vert, Annard, Blonde, A. Percequot, Albert, L'espereux, Caspo, Lery Abraham, Bonaparte Wyse and Dr. K. Horenz.

DEPARTED.

Per *Rubi*, for Manila, Messrs. A. G. Webster, W. Scott and C. W. Callahan.

Per *Kumano Maru*, for Manila, Capt. and Mrs. J. McClintoc, Messrs. Loysaga, Y. Nishinohara, Wm. James, Y. Tokizawa, S. Ngai, S. Yatsunoto, K. Ayni, W. Dennis, H. Savage Lander, A. G. Gies, N. E. Wood, H. F. Flynn, W. C. Dibrell, F. A. Asserson, A. J. Andrews; for Brisbne, Mr. and Mrs. S. Campignon and Mr. A. Campignon; for Sydney, Mr. and Mrs. A. Yates, Mr. and Mrs. W. Hamilton, Messrs. E. J. Wangenheim, J. Mitchell, H. Percival, J. F. Duff, N. Takaoka, Ando, R. S. Rosenthal and H. J. Taylor; for Melbourne, Mr. Matsuyama.

Per *Valetta*, from Hongkong, for Singapore, Lieut. Cox and Dr. J. Kirk; for Colombo, Messrs. B. Maniere and R. L. Kidston; for

Bombay, Col. J. K. Kanga and Mr. Gibson; for Suez, Mrs. C. Salmon and Mr. A. Fehr; for Brindisi, Mr. and Mrs. W. P. Hill, Mrs. M. E. Cook, Mr. and Mrs. G. Dabois, Miss H. L. Gowing, Messrs. J. Curley, F. M. Johnson, H. M. Garland and H. T. Safford; for London, Capt. and Mrs. Casswell and child, Staff Q.M. Sgt. and Mrs. Barclay and two children, Messrs. J. McLaughlin and W. R. Smyth; from Shanghai, for Penang, Mr. Duncan; for Marseilles, Mr. C. H. Allen; for London, Miss M. Campbell.

Per *Tosa Maru*, for Hongkong, from Shanghai, Mrs. G. Netherton, Messrs. C. Brandt, J. J. Seuss, J. Meyers, O. Wellman and J. Willard.

Per *Londsa*, from Hongkong, for Manila, Mr. and Mrs. B. W. Wells, Mr. and Mrs. A. L. Pitcher, Mrs. R. M. Shearer, Mrs. Hamilton, Mrs. Kerey, Messrs. J. S. Mallory, T. W. Gilkyson, M. Mareaid, J. de las Cayigas and Peter Joseph.

Per *Rosetta Maru*, for Manila, Mrs. O. Derve, Mrs. T. Penrose, Mrs. M. B. Cary, Mrs. T. Mayeda, Mrs. I. Barber, Mr. and Mrs. Seto, Misses A. J. Neale, M. L. Gilman, Mabel Wood, M. A. Townsend, T. Hamazaki, K. Okumoto, H. Nishimura, T. Nakagawa, and T. Watanabe, Dr. R. Lopez, Capt. F. A. Fuller, Messrs. Cecil Bent, Wm. Bingham, F. Ortiz, E. Ott, E. Zaretti, Bonino, F. Lopez, J. Matsurami, J. Miyako, M. Shimomishi, S. Sakai, Wm. Stratton, J. Medell, E. H. Fisher, I. Sonoda, J. Ishikawa, Federico, J. Millard, F. Nakamura and K. Horita.

Per *Namting*, for Calcutta, Mr. and Mrs. Crane, Mr. and Mrs. Shaw, Mrs. and Miss Stewart, Mr. and Mrs. C. Wynne, Mrs. Duke, Misses Van Buren, Nott and Dennison, Messrs. T. Frawley, J. Amory, L. Bruckart, J. Williams, H. Ashton, C. Southern, A. Garrels, R. McGreer and Wm. Johnson.

Per *Konig Albert*, from Hongkong, for Singapore, Mr. and Mrs. L. V. Holzneister, Messrs. C. F. Davis and Moore; for Colombo, Mr. and Mrs. James Leads, Mr. and Mrs. L. B. Caster, Mr. and Mrs. Donald Gordon and Mr. D. Larnach; for Genoa, Messrs. V. de Cholet, J. V. Howlett and Dr. Luchs; for London, Misses Longstaff and Kate Grant.

Per *China*, for Shanghai, Mrs. and Miss Andrew, Messrs. B. H. Connell, B. Lankester, J. J. Connell, E. S. Reader, A. H. Bond and J. P. Weitzman; for Yokohama, Mrs. H. A. C. Bonar, Mrs. and Miss McDermid and infant, Capt. J. Eaton and Mr. A. W. Douglas; for San Francisco, &c., Mrs. Andrews and infant, Mrs. W. Halton Potts, Misses Enid and Muriel Potts, Miss H. B. Lett, Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Harrison, Rear-Admiral Frank Wilds, U.S.N., Lieut. P. Andrews, U.S.N., Capt. P. H. West, U.S.A., Major G. D. Deehou, U.S.A., Capt. F. Sparrenberger, U.S.A., Dr. Wendel, Miss McDonald, Messrs. E. J. Martin, H. E. Wasserman, and Otto Schoenewerk.

Per *Zafiro*, for Manila, Mr. and Mrs. H. J. Andrews, Master H. and Miss E. Andrews, Mr. and Mrs. J. Hastings, Col. and Mrs. Forbes, Misses Woodward, V. Roahart, Kopan and Eclee, Capt. Cu-mend, Messrs. J. F. Wright, E. Ros, P. Hett, G. Vintziger, R. D. Redfern, R. Foucken, J. Hoffmester, T. Alegre, Pio Santos, Jamboo, Sarintan, Barketali Khan, S. H. Lambert and A. Kopef.

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DOWNS.—S. C. Farnham, Boyd & Co. Fair business has been done in these shares at steady rates, Tls. 180 for cash and 181½ January delivery, 185 March and 190 April, the market closed with sellers at these rates. **LANDS.**—Shanghai and Hongkong, no business quoted; quotations unchanged. **MILLS.**—Flours have changed hands at Tls. 92½, in Cotton Mill shares there is no business reported, the markets for the various mills being nominal at quotations. **TUG AND CARGO BOATS.**—No business. Quotations unchanged. **MISCELLANEOUS.**—Waterworks shares are wanted. Shanghai Sumatra Tobacco Shares are wanted at Tls. 4½. Maatschappij etc., in Langkat shares have changed hands at varying rates, on Monday cash shares changed hands at 160 and 162½. Yesterday business was done at 177½ for March and 175 and 180 for April, and cash at 170 and 170 for January. Shanghai Horse Bazars are sellers at Tls. 145. Watsons are offering at \$4½. Central Stores have changed hands and are obtainable at \$26. **LOANS.**—Shanghai Land Debentures 6 per cent. are offering at Tls. 103, 5½ per cent. at Tls. 97, Shanghai Waterworks and Shanghai and Hongkew Wharf Debentures are wanted at quotations.

In a leaflet on "The Depreciation of Stocks," dated the 7th inst., Messrs J. P. Bisset & Co. say: - We present our usual list of stocks showing the difference in value at the end of 1902 from that of the end of 1901. The net loss is Tls. 7,948,788.76. The decline in value does not affect investors who use only their own money, as profits and losses are not made until realised. Buyers of shares for future delivery, as a rule, lost heavily, not only their own funds, but in many cases those of confiding brokers, who, for a paltry brokerage of one-half of one per cent. (which they did not receive), had guaranteed reckless speculators. These losses by broker, so far as we can estimate, amount to a quarter of a million taels, although some people name a much larger sum. A large proportion of the shares quoted on our local market are held by residents in Europe, America and Hongkong. We estimate the proportion of the losses belonging to Shanghai holders at about one and a half million taels. It may be added that in 1901 Shanghai made a net estimated gain of Tls. 11,500,000; in 1900 of Tls. 3,00,000; and in 1899 of Tls. 4,000,000.

MANILA, 5th January (from Messrs W. A. Fitton & Co.'s Marl et Report).—Since our Circular No. 37, dated 1st ult., there has been more movement in the local share market, but altogether too insignificant for an important city like this. **Transactions.**—Small lots of the Tobacco Trust shares Germinal factory, Maritimas and Electric Lights have changed hands; business done, however, was trifling. **Demand.**—During the early part of the month under review there was (for Manila) a strong enquiry for Maritimas and Germinal stock; for latter, buyers could be found to-day. **Meetings.**—The only two held during the past month were Tobacco Trust and Investment Co., results in both concerns were unfortunate, the former carrying forward to debit of P. & L. Acct. \$111,575.64 on 6 months' working to October 31st last, and latter \$24,772.20; if things have been written down as reported, by the General Managers, then the stock is well worth the attention of speculators. The Santa Cruz Drug Store, one of the Investment Co.'s best assets, has been sold to the former managers; \$70,000 was the figure paid, so there should be some cash floating around for shareholders of M. I. Co. one of these days. Meetings to be held during current month are: Oriente Hotel, Maritima, Ico Co., Tel phones and Banco Españo-Filipino. With exception of first-named, all the companies will pay dividends, and we will be disappointed if the excepted company does not follow suit, their income being ample, and expenses of management practically nil, as the hotel is leased. American Bank has had another good quarter, a dividend of 6 per cent. was declared payable on 3 months' working, ended October 1st, making 16 per cent. since 1st November 1901, in addition to which Reserve Fund stands at \$6,000 gold. With such results probably some of the busy bodies around town will avoid talking so much, and leave those responsible for management to themselves as they are proved competent to run the Bank on a safe and paying basis. We understand there are some few outstanding, but so far as we can learn fully 95 per cent are quiet good. **Currency.**—It looks as though these Islands are to get the long-wanted legislation, and in the near future. Reports are somewhat contradictory, but it looks as if we shall be placed on a gold basis, with an Insular peso exchangeable at 2 for 1. Although a low rate of exchange is undoubtedly beneficial to the export trade, we are of opinion that the

promised legislation will prove of equal benefit to all interested in the future welfare of these Islands, as exporters and importers will be enabled to conduct their operations with the knowledge that fluctuations in exchange would be trifling. **General.**—There appears to be more disposition on the part of capitalists to interest themselves in these rich islands. Opportunities are great for people with capital; with a stable currency, the labour and agricultural questions attended to, and some banks run on American lines (there are quite sufficient Exchange Banks), there are excellent chances for people with health, brains, and money.

CLOSING QUOTATIONS.

FRIDAY, 16th January.

EXCHANGE.

ON LONDON.—

Telegraphic Transfer	1/6½
Bank Bills, on demand	1/6½
Bank Bills, at 30 days' sight	1/7
Bank Bills, at 4 months' sight	1/7 1/6
Credits, at 4 months' sight	1/7 1/6
Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight	1/7 1/6

ON PARIS.—

Bank Bills, on demand	198
Credits, 4 months' sight	:02

ON GERMANY.—

On demand	161½
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ON NEW YORK.—

Bank Bills, on demand	38½
Credits, 60 days' sight	39½

ON BOMBAY.—

Telegraphic Transfer	117½
Bank, on demand	117½

ON CALCUTTA.—

Telegraphic Transfer	117½
Bank, on demand	117½

ON SHANGHAI.—

Bank, at sight	72
Private, 30 days' sight	7½

ON YOKOHAMA.—

On demand	76½
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ON MANILA.—

On demand	1 p.c. pm.
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ON SINGAPORE.—

On demand	1 p.c. pm.
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ON BATAVIA.—

On demand	94½
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ON HAIPHONG.—

On demand	1½ p.c. pm.
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ON SAIGON.—

On demand	1 p.c. pm.
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ON BANGKOK.—

On demand	65½
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SOVEREIGNS, Bank's Buying Rate

\$12.62

GOLD LEAF, 100 fine, per tael

\$66.10

BAR SILVER per oz.....

22½

TONNAGE.

HONGKONG, 16th January.—Freights coastwise continue dull. From Saigon to Hongkong, there is more demand and 10 cents is now offering for prompt and 11 cents for early February loading; to one port Philippines, 26 cents per picul has been paid for two small carriers (prompt); to one port north coast Java, 26 cents per picul for February loading; to Japan, 28 cents per picul for February loading. North coast Java to Hongkong, 17½ cents per picul prompt, for dry sugar and 35 cents per picul for Japan March shipment. Coal freights remain weak. From Moji to this, \$2; to Singapore, \$2.65; to Manila, \$3.25; to Amoy, \$2.10; to Swatow, \$2.25 per ton. Time charters.—Two steamers have been fixed on time the Sullberg for 12 months, at \$5,600 per month, for Northern trade, and the Karin for 8 months for Newchwang Canton trade, both charters to commence in March. The following are the settlements:—

Perla—British steamer, 1,287 tons, Wuhu and/or Chinkiang to Canton, 17 candareens per picul.

Sullberg—German steamer, 782 tons, Wuhu and Chinkiang to Canton, 17 candareens per picul.

Cassius—German steamer, 1,627 tons, Karatsu to Manila, \$3.25 per ton.

Bentley—British steamer, 1,484 tons, Moji and/or Kuchinotzu to Hongkong, \$2 per ton.

Onsang—British steamer, 1,781 tons, Moji to Hongkong, \$2; option Swatow, \$2.25 per ton.

Chinsang—British steamer, 1,417 tons, Moji to Hongkong, \$2 per ton.

Rossija—Russian steamer, 1,315 tons, Moji to Hongkong, \$2 per ton.

Prosper—Norwegian steamer, 788 tons, Moji or Kuchinotzu to Amoy, \$2.10 per ton.

Selun—Norwegian steamer, 800 tons, Moji to Swatow, \$2.25 per ton.

Taurus—Norwegian steamer, 1,367 tons, Moji to Singapore, \$2 8½ per ton.

Petrarch—German steamer, 1,252 tons, Rangoon to Yokohama or Kobe, 44 cents per picul.

Doris—Norwegian steamer, 965 tons, Chefoo to Canton, \$4.50 in full.

Andree Rickmers—German steamer, 1,020 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 8 cents per picul.

Nanshan—British steamer, 1,209 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 9 cents per picul.

Quarta—Norwegian steamer, 1,146 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 9 cents per picul.

Amigo—German steamer, 822 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 9 cents per picul.

Holstein—German steamer, 1,103 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 9 cents per picul.

Dicima—German steamer, 794 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 9½ cents per picul.

Taiyu—German steamer, 1,065 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 10 cents per picul.

Clara Jebsen—German steamer, Saigon to Hongkong, 10 cents per picul.

Telemachus—British steamer, 1,340 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 10 cents per picul.

Binh Thuan—French steamer, 1,094 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 10 cents per picul.

Doris—Norwegian steamer, 905 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 11 cents per picul.

Pronto—German steamer, 710 tons, Saigon to one port Philippines, 24 cents per picul.

Karin—Swedish steamer, 608 tons, Saigon to one port Philippines, 24 cents per picul.

Lisa—Swedish steamer, 998 tons, Saigon to one port Japan, 26 cents, two ports, 29 cents per picul.

A China Nav. Co.'s steamer, Saigon to one port, 28 cents, two ports Japan, 30 cents per picul (early February).

A China Nav. Co.'s steamer, Saigon to one or two ports north coast Java, 26 cents and 28½ cents per picul (February).

A China Nav. Co.'s steamer, two ports north coast Java to Yokohama and/or Kobe, 35 cents and 37 cents per picul.

Karin—Swedish steamer, 698 tons, monthly, 8 months, at \$5,250 per month (delivery March